THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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BJP EMERGES THE LARGEST PARTY IN MAHARASHTRA LOCAL BODY POLLS

The BJP on Sunday said it won 133 out of 288 nagar parishads in the Maharashtra local body polls, even as the Opposition alleged foul play

POOR SHOW BY MAHA VIKAS AGHADI CONTINUES

The BJP's alliance partner Shiv Sena won 46 nagar parishads, while the NCP secured 35. The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi won just 48, with the Congress accounting for 34 and the Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) winning eight and six, respectively. "Grateful to the people of Maharashtra for blessing the BJP and Mahayuti," Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on X

BJP WINS 3,325 COUNCILLOR SEATS: FADNAVIS

- Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said the BJP won 3,325 councillor seats. "The BJP alone has won 48% of councilors," Fadnavis noted
- The latest results, coming a year after Mahayuti's decisive victory in the state Assembly elections, will be a further jolt to the Opposition, which has accused the Election Commission of aiding BJP's win | P10

2-phase

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS IN MAHARASHTRA WERE HELD ON DECEMBER 2 AND 20

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

India seeks action on B'desh lynching

Suspends visa ops at Chattogram until further notice

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA on Sunday expressed deep concern over the lynching of a Hindu man in Bangladesh and urged Dhaka to ensure swift justice as escalating unrest prompted New Delhi to suspend visa operations in the port city of Chattogram.

Reacting to a question related to the killing of 27-year-old Dipu Chandra Das in Bangladesh's Mymensingh district, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said it is closely monitoring the situation and has taken up the matter with Bangladeshi authorities.

"India continues to keep a close watch on the evolving situation in Bangladesh. Our officials remain in touch with Bangladesh authorities and have conveyed to them our strong concerns at the attacks on minorities," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

The killing of Das, a garment factory worker, occurred amid widespread violence that erupted after the death of Sharif Osman Hadi, a prominent leader of last year's student uprising and a candidate in the February 12 general election. Hadi's shooting earlier this month sparked protests, vandalism and attacks across several parts of Bangladesh.

Das's father Ravilal Das said his son was beaten, tied to a tree, and set on fire by a mob.

Against the backdrop of rising tensions, India has suspended visa operations at the Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) in Chattogram until further notice. The decision follows a security incident involving stone-hurling at the residence of the Assistant High Commissioner of India in the city. "Due to recent security incident at Assistant High Commission of India Chittagong, Indian visa operations at IVAC Chittagong will remain suspended from 21/12/2025 until further notice," the IVAC said, adding that reopening would be announced after a review of the security situation.

Officials said the remaining four visa centres—in Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Sylhet—continue to function.

India had briefly shut visa centres in Dhaka, Rajshahi, and Khulna last week after anti-India protesters attempted to march towards Indian missions. Operations in Dhaka resumed a day later, while security was tightened at Indian facilities in Sylhet on December 20.

Students during a silent protest to condemn the lynching of a Hindu man at Dhaka University. Inset: Dipu Chandra Das | AFP / X

12 arrested so far, say reports

With 2 more arrests on Sunday, police have so far detained 12 people for the lynching of Dipu Chandra Das, media reports said

No breach at B'desh HC: MEA

MEA said on Sunday that reports of security breach at Dhaka's mission in Delhi are "misleading propaganda"

Shell out more for train travel from Dec 26

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Ministry of Railways on Sunday announced its second fare hike this year, expected to generate approximately ₹600 crore in additional revenue by March 31, 2026.

Under the revised structure effective December 26, rail fares will increase by one paisa per km in ordinary class for journeys exceeding 215 km, two paise per km in mail and express non-AC classes, and two paise per km in AC classes. Passengers travelling 500 km in non-AC coaches will pay ₹10 extra. No increase will apply to suburban services or monthly season tickets.

This follows the first hike announced on June 30 and implemented from July 1, which has generated ₹700 crore so far. The last hike in July came ahead of Bihar elections, while the second hike announced on Sunday comes ahead of Assembly elections in West Bengal. Railway officials justified the fare revision citing rising operational costs. Manpower expenses were ₹1,15,000 crore, pension costs ₹60,000 crore, and total operations ₹2,63,000 crore in 2024-25.

The ministry said the railways is focusing on higher cargo loading alongside fare rationalisation. With a record of 1,617 MT freight till October 2025, the Railways is now the second largest freight network in the world.

GRAMIN ACT

President gives assent to new rural jobs law

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu on Sunday gave her assent to the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, replacing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

The new Act, passed amid fierce Opposition protests, guarantees 125 days of employment annually to rural households—25 days more than MGNREGA. Under a revised cost-sharing formula, states will contribute 40 percent while the Centre bears 60 percent.

According to a Rashtrapati Bhawan communiqué, the legislation establishes a rural development framework aligned with the 'Viksit Bharat 2047' vision. The Rural Development Ministry stated it "strengthens income security, modernises governance and links wage employment with creation of rural assets".

ARMY TO PROCURE 1 LAKH INDIGENOUS 9MM-PISTOLS

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE government has issued a request for information (RFI) to procure one lakh indigenous 9-mm pistols for the Indian Army. Nine-mm pistols are lighter and are particularly suited for close-range combat or urban warfare.

According to the RFI issued by the Ministry of Defence, the government is also seeking to procure accessories, including night sights and targeting options.

The plan is to replace the existing 9-mm semi-automatic, magazine-fed pistol from Rifle Factory Ishapore. The new pistols are expected to feature ambidextrous controls, suppressors and accessory rails to modernise older weapons.

Currently, troops in special force units of the Army use imported 9-mm pistols.

The DRDO and the Indian Army have already designed a 9-mm weapon for counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations, incorporating 3D-printed parts and a high rate of fire.

As per the RFI, the 9-mm pistol should function day and night in common weather conditions across all terrains. It should also be operational in temperatures ranging from –30 to 55 degrees Celsius.

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ARAVALLI 90% PROTECTED

Govt rejected claims that the new definition of the Aravalli range will allow large-scale mining | P9

EXPRESS READ

Govt to e-auction unused excise licences, earn ₹1Kcr

Bengaluru: For the first time since the inception of the Excise department, the Congress government has set the ball rolling for auctioning of unused retail licences. "The government is expecting to earn around Rs 1,000 crore," Joint Commissioner, Excise, T Nagarajappa said | P6

Cong likes illegal B'deshis more than Assamese: PM

Guwahati: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday accused the Congress of settling and protecting illegal Bangladeshi migrants. Concluding his two-day visit to Assam, he said, "The Congress has no concern for Assam. The Congress likes illegal Bangladeshi migrants more" | P10

Rifle telescope recovered near NIA office in Jammu

Srinagar: The Jammu Rural Police on Sunday recovered a Chinese-made telescope of an assault rifle near the National Investigation Agency (NIA) headquarters. The recovery has prompted the authorities to beef up security in areas around government and military installations.

TWO DROPS OF LIFE

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah administers polio drops to a child at the launch of the Pulse Polio Immunisation programme at his home-office Krishna in Bengaluru on Sunday. Ministers Dinesh Gundu Rao and Dr G Parameshwara look on | EXPRESS | P6

Leadership crisis not created by high command: Kharge

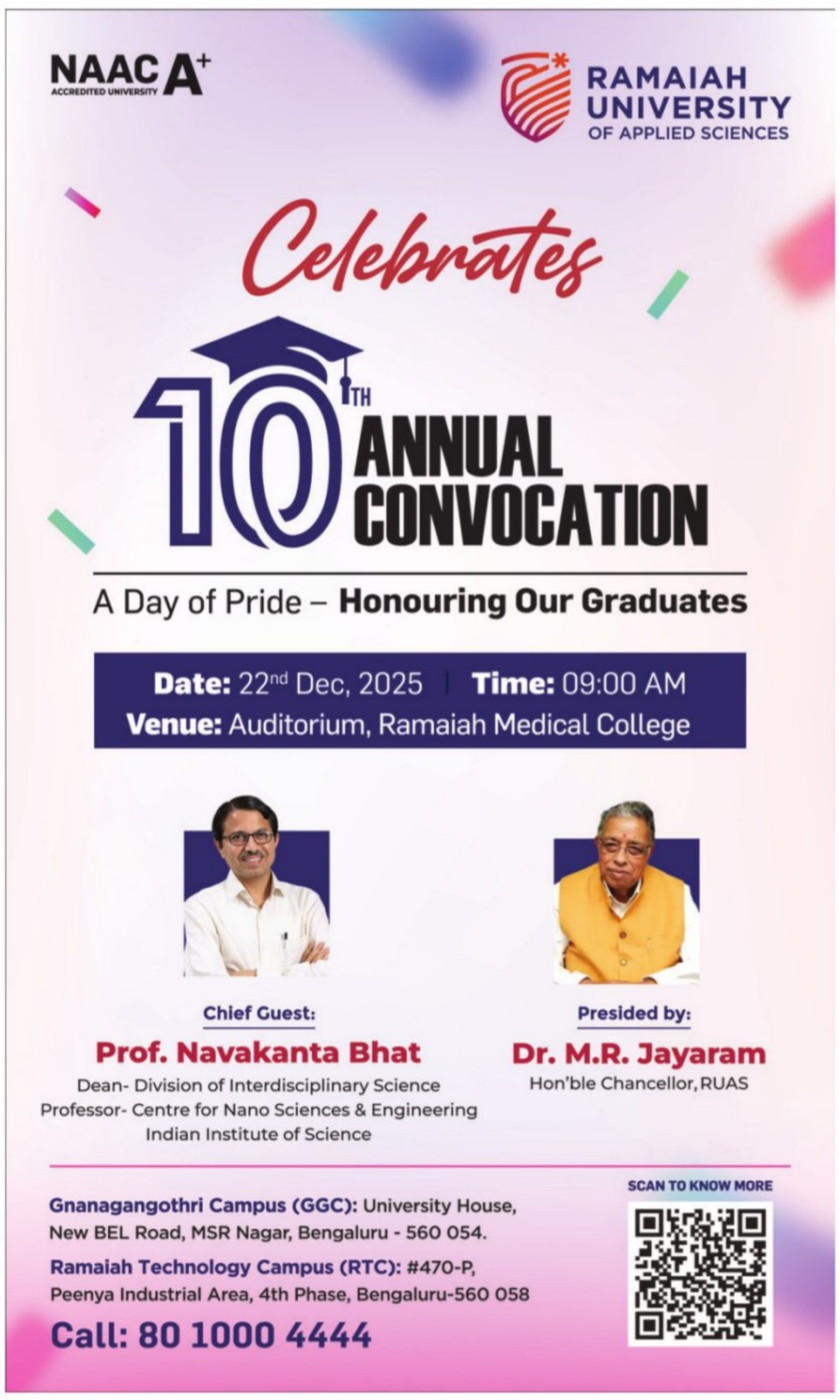
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kalaburagi/Bengaluru

ALL-India Congress Committee (AICC) president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday sought to downplay the reported leadership tussle within the party in the state, asserting that the "confusion" is at the state level and not created by the party high command.

He urged local leaders to take responsibility and resolve internal issues, underlining that Congress is built by its workers and not by any single individual. He told the media that the party leadership in Delhi has not fuelled any dispute between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. "Issues, if any, must be sorted out locally. The high command has not created any confusion," he said, calling for unity and discipline within the party.

He also launched a sharp attack on the Centre over the proposed changes to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act -- MGNREGA, which he said has effectively been replaced by the VB-G RAM G Act. Describing MGNREGA as a "lifeline for the poor," he accused the Centre of deliberately weakening the scheme to harm rural workers. He criticised the reduction in the Centre–state funding ratio from 90:10 to 60:40, alleging that the move was aimed at making the poor "slaves of the rich".

Announcing nationwide protests, he said the Congress will lead an agitation against the changes, with support from other opposition parties. MORE: P4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Dean- Division of Interdisciplinary Science
Professor- Centre for Nano Sciences & Engineering
Indian Institute of Science
Presided by:
Dr. M.R. Jayaram
Hon'ble Chancellor, RUAS
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Call: 80 1000 4444

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 22.12.2025 • Year: Vishwavasu • Ayana: Dakhsinayana
Ritu: Himanth • Masa: Pausha • Paksha: Sukla • Tithi: Dwitheeya 9.20 am
Nakshatra: Uttharashada 4.25 am • Moon in Makara rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 14°C | MAX 27°C
FORECAST Cloudy

Sunrise 06.37 am
Sunset 05.59 pm
Moonrise 08.24 am
Moonset 07.59 pm

Hebbal flyover loop opens for traffic trial run

Concern over traffic presure at Mehkri Circle

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

TRAFFIC on the busy Hebbal flyover is expected to ease with the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) completing work on the second loop and opening it for trial vehicular movement while concerns were raised about the traffic pressure that is set to increase at Mehkri Circle.

The new loop is aimed at decongesting traffic for commuters travelling from northern parts of the city such as Yelahanka, Jakkur and Sahakar Nagar towards Mehkri Circle, while also offering a smoother drive for passengers returning from the Kempegowda International Airport.

While the loop is expected to provide immediate relief on the flyover, commuters and mobility experts have raised concerns about fresh bottlenecks emerging further down the corridor, particularly near Mehkri Circle, where the turn towards Jayamahal Road remains narrow.

Rajkumar Dugar, founder of Citizens for Citizens, said unless supporting measures are implemented urgently, the benefits of the new loop could be short-lived. "There is an urgent need to shift the bus stop from the entrance of the loop below the flyover, as buses and autos stopping there obstruct vehicle movement," he said.

He also called for a strict no-parking and no-stopping zone below the flyover and along the entire stretch from Hebbal Flyover to Mehkri Circle, especially near Ganganagar and HMT, where the road narrows considerably.

At Mehkri Circle, Dugar pointed out that the left service road needs widening to handle the expected increase in traffic. "If acquiring land from the defence authorities takes time, the existing footpath can temporarily be reduced by about half a metre and restored later when land becomes available," he suggested. He also proposed extending part of the narrow service road to the right, over the underpass, after ensuring sufficient height clearance for vehicles.

Satya Arikutharam, an independent mobility expert, also questioned BDA's proposal for a short tunnel road parallel to this stretch, warning that it could further increase pressure at Mehkri Circle. He argued that with Bengaluru Metro and Suburban Rail projects stalled over the last few years, continued focus on road-based solutions risks deepening car dependency.

"Car dependency is a trap," he warned, noting that without parallel investments in high-capacity public transport, new road infrastructure may only shift congestion rather than resolve it.

Addressing the concerns raised regarding the bottlenecks at Mehkri Circle, BDA Commissioner P Manivannan said, "Work has started for decongesting Mehkri Circle. Immediate plan is to widen the left lane requesting use of land from the Indian Army. The medium term plan is to go for two elevated corridors feeding the traffic to East and West from Mekhri Circle."

Loop aims to decongest traffic flowing from city's northern parts towards Mehkri Circle

Canara Bank launches UPI app

Bengaluru: Canara Bank has launched a digital payment app called Canara ai1Pe which will provide customers from all banks a secure and convenient way of making UPI transactions. All features of a standard UPI app like instant money transfers between bank accounts, QR code-based merchant payments and comprehensive bill payments and recharges can be done through the app. Phone, electricity, water and other bills can be paid through the app as well. Canara ai1Pe promises a high degree of security. Each transaction through the app will be protected by a UPI PIN authentication mechanism and will be possible to do only through the same registered mobile device. Reward mechanisms like cashback schemes will be available, a press release said. **ENS**

AGRAM DWAR

EJIPURA

SARJAPURA

BANNERGHATTA

PICS | KEVIN NASHON

City's walk-in streets are just not walkable

KEVIN NASHON @Bengaluru

IT'S that time of the year when Namma Bengaluru dresses up — streets glow, music spills, and walk-in streets flaunt a city made more for people than vehicles. With Church Street setting the tone, Indiranagar joined the festive script this month, turning urban corridors into pedestrian retreats with its walk-in street culture.

But once the lights dim and the nights go dark, a familiar question returns: Is Bengaluru truly walkable beyond these short-lived illusions of accessibility? Evidently not.

Minati Misra Ambarish, a Bengaluru resident who owns a property with her husband on Church Street since 2001, illustrated the "intolerable" condition of the city's footpaths, despite the way walk-in street activities create a deceptive image of accessibility for residents. "There's no space. It is impossible to walk on footpaths. And even if you manage to find some space, you will find a biker heading towards you on the pavement," she said, perfectly capturing the daily reality of Bangaloreans. "Broken slabs and garbage spilling out of their bags on to the footpath... it's horrible," she added.

KR MARKET

Across the city, footpaths and walkaways are in a pathetic state. Broken slabs, sewage pipes and unauthorised shops make pedestrian spaces inaccessible

Vijayashekar Ravi Deepam, vice-president of Bangalore Trades Association, highlighted the alarming condition of the city caused by illegal encroachment of footpaths by unauthorised vendors. "There's no safety, especially for women. They need to squeeze between people on these narrow footpaths," he said, talking about key points like Brigade Road, MG Road and Church Street, that have become unsafe for pedestrians.

Some believe the very notion of walking has changed these days. Speaking from her deep love for nature and the charm of old MG Road, Mary Josephine, a resident for the past 37 years, reflected on how "walking and jogging in Bengaluru doesn't feel the same anymore". She says, "It was very nice and calm back then. Now everything is commercial. MG Road was full of trees and plants. Now you will see more of quick-commerce agents with their vehicles on the footpath than people walking to enjoy the space."

She emphasised that adapting and evolving are essential in times like these. While walking can remain a part of daily life, it now requires greater caution and attentiveness.

These issues are not confined to the city's core. Beyond the central areas, the situation worsens across Bengaluru, with stretches like Bannerghatta Road, Whitefield, Sarjapur and Ejipura continuing to suffer from poorly maintained footpaths. Construction debris, broken slabs and illegal encroachments turn footpaths into obstacle courses that pedestrians are forced to navigate.

X'mas, NY on Thursday, long weekends keep F&B industry on tenterhooks

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

THIS is the best business season for the Food & Beverage (F&B) industry in pub city, with Christmas and New Year celebrations, but this year owners of pubs, bars, resto-bars, lounges are keeping their fingers crossed. For one, Christmas is on Thursday. The long weekend ahead may mean Bengalureans will end up celebrating the festive season outside the city, away from the "traffic chaos", they said.

"Most Bengalureans leave the city during a long weekend. Resorts on the outskirts are booked for Christmas and New Year. But in the city there are hardly any bookings for the two big festive days in most restaurants and watering holes," said owners of prominent pubs and bars, who didn't wish to be named.

"There may be some rush for bookings next week onward. We hope to do some good business this season after a long lull," they said. The recent Goa fire tragedy and Chinnaswamy stampede are also weighing heavy on the F&B industry, which banks largely on Christmas celebrations and New Year revelry. "People are worried about safety. We welcome checks and stringent security measures. It's incumbent on us to satisfy the authorities and our guests. Such unfortunate incidents affect business. There will be crowd restrictions," they added.

"Overall, the F&B business has been slack for the past six months," said the owners. "We are seeing a dip of 20 to 25 per cent in revenue post the 50 per cent hike in Excise fee and alcohol prices. There are reasons for the switch; from dining out every weekend to staying at home and calling in food. Corporate spending has been sized down. Hence, there are fewer corporate parties, which are big and a regular source of revenue for the F&B industry. Job insecurity is another big concern, and hiring in the corporate sector is frozen till March/April so people are wary and have rationalised their budgets. In the city, people are tired of long commutes and traffic congestion, and don't want to be on the road on weekends. Instead, they go out of the city to relax and detox," said the owner of a popular chain of pubs.

The format of celebrating is also changing with people wanting to host house parties, and some in the F&B business are also catering to them. "While there are no bookings as of now for our pubs and bars, we are overbooked for house parties," said the owner of a popular chain of pubs in the city and outside. "Most reservations for house parties are from Indiranagar, Koramangala and villas in North Bengaluru," he added.

> **Most Bengalureans leave the city during a long weekend. Resorts on the outskirts are booked for Christmas and New Year. But in the city there are hardly any bookings for the two big festive days in most restaurants and watering holes** — Owner of a pub

EXPRESS READ

Tender awarded for Madavara-T'kuru Metro extension

Bengaluru: Even as experts raised concern about the extension of the Green Line Metro from Madavara to Tumakuru, the tender for the preparation of a detailed project report (DPR) for the proposed corridor was awarded to Aarvee Engineering Consultants Ltd. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) issued a Letter of Acceptance (LoA) for the preparation of DPR to the Hyderabad-based company. The DPR will cover the proposed 59.60-km Metro extension from Madavara (BIEC) to Tumakuru, passing through Nelamangala, Dabaspet and Kyathasandra. The consultancy contract has been approved at a cost of Rs 1.26 crore, excluding GST. The tender was floated on November 15, 2025, with bids submitted on November 20 and opened on December 16. BMRCL stated that the amount includes all applicable taxes, cess, duties and levies, except GST. **ENS**

Evicted slum dwellers protest outside min's house

Bengaluru: Following the demolition of slum houses at Fakeer Colony and Wasim Layout at Kogilu in Yelahanka to reclaim five acres of government land by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), around 350 to 400 residents, who were rendered homeless, protested outside Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda's house in Sahakar Nagar on Sunday, demanding rehabilitation. The protestors highlighted how numerous families were made homeless with no notice or alternate residence arranged as their homes were demolished overnight and demanded houses. "The demonstration was intended to get the minister, also the local MLA, to come and speak to us, but he did not give us time to meet him today. However, we have been told that he has agreed to meet us on Monday morning," said a representative from the Dhudiyuva Janara Vedike. **ENS**

Nearly 400 slum dwellers stage a sit-in protest near Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda's house in Sahakar Nagar on Sunday | EXPRESS

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

22nd December : On the Final Day of Hanukkah On the close of Hanukkah, the lunar charge into Aquarius flickers like candlelight, illuminating natural talents and affinities dormant inside us. Even in the final days of the year, there is still a chance to activate them by trying something for the first time, meeting new people or approaching a routine differently. You never know what will click until you give it a whirl.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You can say no warmly, strangely, lightly, whimsically and without anyone feeling hurt: "I don't think my spirit wants to go." "My energy's being weird today." It's really acceptable for you to do -- or not do -- what you want.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
There's intelligence in what your attention gravitates toward, especially when you're not stressed. So take care of your nervous system first. Then, from the calm place, let intuition choose the order of activities, and you'll be golden.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
There are changes that occur without awareness or effort, but those aren't the sort you're interested in now. You want to steer your life. That's why you're educating yourself about all options, and as you do this, more options open up.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
You're in that awkward phase where it feels like your past efforts didn't matter because you can't yet see results. But the seeds you've planted are maturing underground. You can relax today in the knowledge that your day is approaching.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
Thinking about something in the abstract creates internal conflict. You can imagine so many possibilities, risks, meanings, interpretations -- it all gets quite dizzying. This doesn't have to be complicated. Just act. When you actually do the thing, the ambiguity dissolves.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
This new habit you're building is still a struggle, but it will get easier. Soon you'll notice this is no longer any effort at all for you, and after that, you'll be the proud owner of a new identity. It's not even a habit. It's just who you are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
You're caught between two things, and neither option feels quite right. It's OK to let it be uncomfortable for a minute. Because that's better than letting fear push you into a choice you're not ready to make.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
Your presence is a gift, not a guarantee. People need to learn not to assume access to you. You're not being aloof; you're just asserting your right to your own time and experience. Follow your own rules today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Your confidence grows because of the action you take. Even when it is not immediately rewarded or even noticed, you witness yourself. Your body knows the truth, and the mind stretches its idea of what you're capable of.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
You have values you don't think about until they surface, as they will spontaneously today. You're not afraid to notice and wonder at your own behavior, some of which will surprise you in the best way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You don't have to worry about what people think -- their opinions are already shifting. If you tried to manage them now, you'd have the influence of a sandcastle builder 10 minutes before high tide.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
Energetic mismatches are just a dud. Avoid! Work alongside people who match your intensity, and together you'll find ideas you couldn't reach alone. Shared effort makes progress easier, victories sweeter and the whole journey far more fun.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

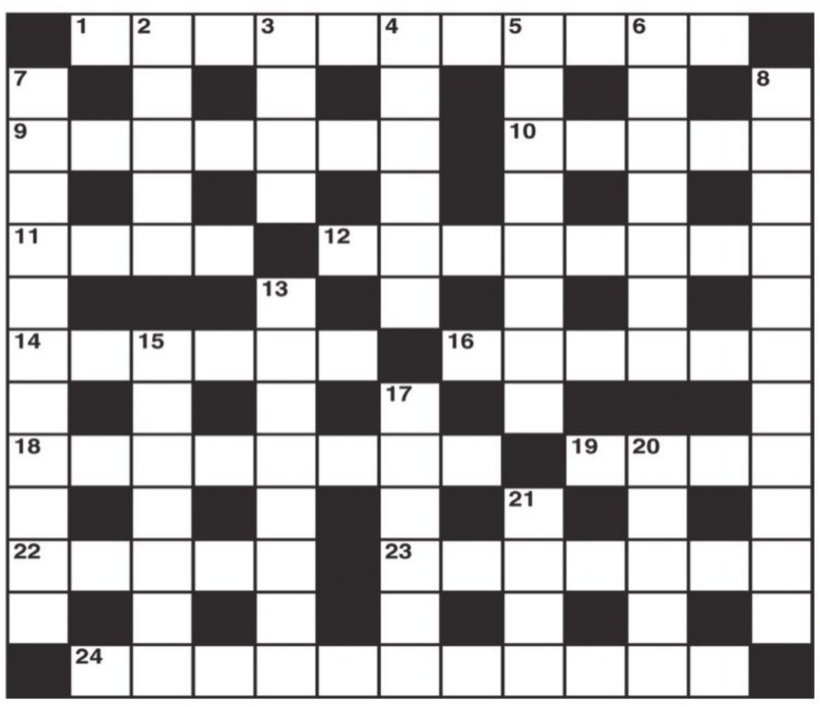
2	5					7		3
8			7		6		5	2
			2	3		4		9
	1		8	2		5	4	
	9	2		7	4		1	
5		8		9	2			
9	2		4		7			5
3		1					9	4

3	7	8	9	2	5	1	4	6
9	5	6	3	1	4	7	8	2
1	2	4	7	6	8	5	3	9
5	6	3	2	8	9	4	1	7
2	8	1	4	5	7	6	9	3
4	9	7	1	3	6	8	2	5
7	3	5	8	4	2	9	6	1
8	1	9	6	7	3	2	5	4
6	4	2	5	9	1	3	7	8

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Development of Buchan's novel Greenmantle (11)
9 Oddly not a Spanish river but a North American lake (7)
10 The church takes on the sick and cold (5)
11 When bulbs come to life? (4)
12 Imposing corporal punishment (8)
14 A speaker skilled at splitting alternatives (6)
16 Instructed to get soundly tight! (6)
18 Permit father's recreation (8)
19 It is thought to be almost perfect (4)
22 Norwegian with a choice of directions (5)
23 Hat and pipe mislaid - in the cemetery? (7)
24 Arousing one's curiosity but maybe resenting it (11)

DOWN
2 Determined on getting a rise in cash (5)
3 Crooked king in a bad way (4)
4 About the end of December reached the cave (6)
5 Superior neighbour in the US (8)
6 Driving a point home? (7)
7 Friendly society in which one may profitably invest (4,7)
8 Courses in aviation (6,5)
13 About fifty vie to be perfect (8)
15 Set off but go no place (4,3)
17 Fat, it is said, of the land (6)
20 Tied as illustrated (5)
21 A herb that's not used (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Mental, 4 Thousand, 9 Novice, 10 Obedient, 12 Pale, 13 White, 14 Disc, 17 Lost for words, 20 Bottom dollar, 23 Alas, 24 Amend, 25 Lard, 28 Inchoate, 29 Artist, 30 Not right, 31 Appear.

Down: 1 Monopoly, 2 Novelist, 3 Arch, 5 Habit-forming, 6 Undo, 7 Amelia, 8 Detach, 11 Charity match, 15 Afoot, 16 Idiot, 18 Fleabite, 19 Creditor, 21 Ration, 22 Mascot, 26 Foci, 27 Drip.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

ELLEV

CREOF

WSARPL

SNVAIH

Should we warm up for a while?
Sure. I'll grab a basket of practice balls.
THE TENNIS BALLS AT THE COURTS WERE ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ( ) - ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: TITLE ENVOY BONNET HERBAL
Answer: When central air conditioning was invented, there was — "VENT-ELATION"

The police on Sunday arrested an interstate thief from Geddalahalli in Bengaluru and solved nearly 80 theft cases reported across the state. Accused Samir Khan was involved in 27 major cases across three states. Police recovered 250 grams of gold and stolen goods worth ₹8.04 lakh from him

Drunk trucker rams 6 vehicles, caught after 10-km chase

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
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A truck driver, allegedly under the influence of alcohol, rammed into six vehicles at different locations, leaving two people seriously injured, on Chandapura Road in Anekal taluk on Sunday afternoon. Motorists chased the truck for nearly 10 km before catching the driver and handing him over to the police.

The police said an Uttar Pradesh-registered truck, driven by Prem (35), was heading towards Chandapura from an Attibele warehouse. The driver, allegedly under the influence of alcohol, first rammed into two vehicles in Anekal, in which two persons sustained serious injuries, and sped away. He later hit three vehicles at Surya City and another vehicle in Attibele police station limits.

Passing motorists caught the driver after a chase, thrashed him and handed him over to the police. He is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital. A case of rash and negligent driving has been registered at the Anekal police station, the police said adding that the two injured persons are out of danger.

Fake NY passes, coupons... Check before you click

Fraudsters circulate ads to dupe people

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

WITH Christmas and New Year celebrations around the corner, cyber fraudsters are exploiting the festive mood to dupe people with fake party offers and discounted event passes. Cybercrime officials warn that the number of complaints typically spikes during this period as revellers rush to make last-minute bookings and online purchases.

According to police, fraudsters circulate attractive advertisements on social media platforms, messaging apps and emails, offering exclusive New Year party passes, free gifts with bookings, and other limited-period offers highlighted by countdown timers.

They also lure victims through fake giveaways and lucky draws linked to Christmas and New Year celebrations and pressure them to make quick payments, citing limited slots or last-day offers.

DCP (Crime-2) Raja Imam Kasim P told *TNIE* that fraudsters also exploit people by sending fake greeting cards containing suspicious links to hack accounts. They also cheat victims through fake party offers and coupon codes on shopping websites, stealing money in the process.

He urged the public to verify with event organisers through official websites, avoid making advance payments to unknown accounts, and never share OTPs or banking details. Citizens who come across suspicious links or fall victim to fraud are advised to report the matter immediately through the cybercrime helpline 1930.

He also flagged a new scam known as 'GhostPairing', a sophisticated method that allows attackers to gain silent access to a user's WhatsApp account without stealing the SIM card or password.

BIKERS FOR KIDS

Santa bikers ride through the city on Sunday as part of Ration Room's 'The Biggest Christmas Bike Ride in Namma Bengaluru' to drum up support for specially-abled children from Navachetana Trust | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

TECHIE, AUDIOLOGIST KILLED IN SEPARATE ACCIDENTS

Bengaluru: A software engineer and an audiologist died in separate road accidents in the city since Saturday night. Muniswami (31), a techie employed at a private company, was heading home after meeting his friends when he lost control of his bike and skidded near Kodandarama Swami Temple on Hulimavu Lake Road around 1.30 am on Sunday, the police said. He sustained severe injuries and died on the way to hospital. He was a resident of Kammanahalli and hailed from Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu. A case has been registered at the Hulimavu traffic police station. In another incident, audiologist Gopi Mohan (32), who was riding a rental two-wheeler at high speed, died after after hitting a road hump and falling. The incident occurred near Sulikunte bus stop on Sarjapura road in the Whitefield traffic police limits on Saturday night. He was rushed to a nearby hospital but later succumbed to his injuries. The police said Mohan had come to the city for some work from Vellore in Tamil Nadu and was staying at Thayakkanahalli for the last two days. The Whitefield Traffic Police have registered a case. **ENS**

FIR against social media users over obscene content

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Central Cyber Crime police have registered an FIR against unidentified social media users for allegedly posting sexual content on various social media platforms and using captions directing users to send direct messages for obscene videos, thereby promoting such content and luring people towards porn websites.

The police said a 27-year-old private firm employee, Harsha, a resident of Kumarapark West, filed a complaint stating that while scrolling through Instagram, he came across an account that posted photographs of men and women with sexual content. It was found that these posts were shared along with captions intended to mislead the public and divert them towards porn websites, using captions such as 'link in bio' and 'DM for video'.

The complainant claimed that unknown persons and troll pages were attempting to spread obscenity on public platforms.

The police have registered a case under Section 67 (punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form) of the IT Act.

CITY GETS MOBILE WILDLIFE AMBULANCE FOR ANIMAL EMERGENCIES

Anil Kumble flags off the mobile wildlife ambulance in Bengaluru on Sunday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A dedicated mobile wildlife ambulance was launched in Bengaluru on Sunday to strengthen emergency response for injured and displaced animals in and around the city.

The ambulance was flagged off by former Indian cricketer and Karnataka's Forest and Wildlife Ambassador Anil Kumble. The service will operate in coordination with the forest department and aims to respond to wildlife emergencies reported from urban areas and the city's periphery, where incidents of human–animal interaction have increased in recent years.

Bengaluru is home to diverse wildlife, including birds, reptiles and mammals, many of which are affected by habitat loss, road accidents and construction activity. Launched through a partnership between AI-native automotive platform company Tekion and Praana Animal Foundation, the ambulance is equipped to handle a wide range of rescue situations, from migratory birds and reptiles, including snakes, to monkeys and small mammals. It is also designed to assist in high-risk operations involving larger animals such as leopards, gaurs and sloth bears that occasionally stray into residential areas.

The vehicle will be staffed by a trained para-veterinarian and fitted with essential rescue and medical equipment to provide immediate on-site care and ensure safe transportation. A 24x7 helpline has been set up to enable citizens to report wildlife emergencies.

Officials said rescued animals will be shifted to recognised facilities such as Bannerghatta Biological Park or the Birds of Paradise Rehabilitation Centre for treatment and rehabilitation. The initiative is expected to augment the existing wildlife rescue infrastructure and support the forest department's efforts in managing urban wildlife cases more efficiently.

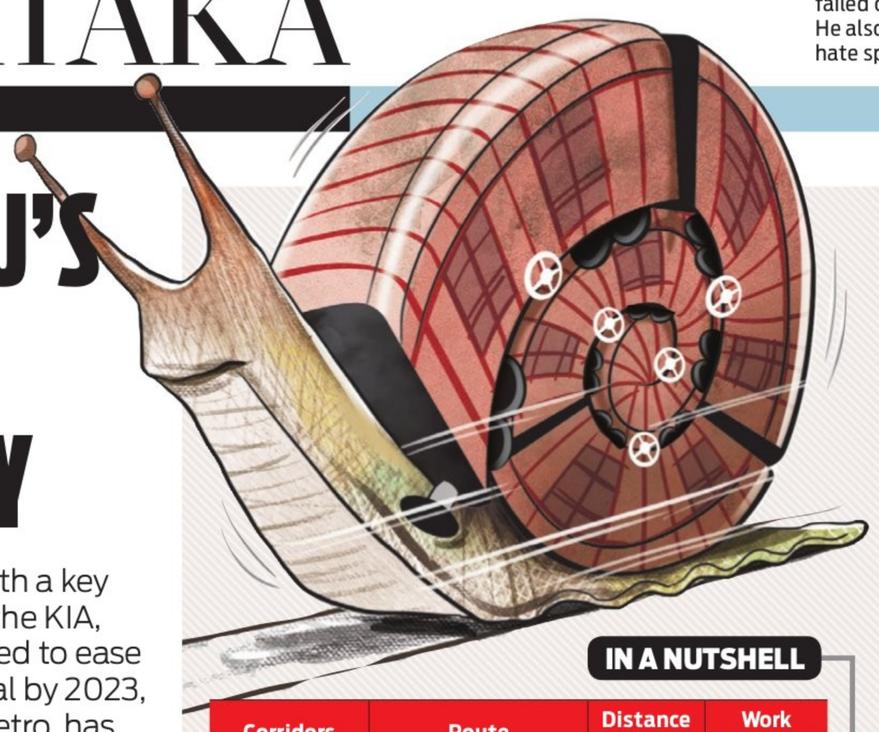
Srinivasulu, Principal Secretary, Department of Ecology & Environment, attended the event.

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of Bharat
VIKSIT BHARAT - G RAM G
Now 125 days of
Guarantee
of Rural Employment
Stronger provision for unemployment allowance
Timely wage payment and delay compensation
Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP) by Gram Sabha
CBC 35101/13/0056/2526
Viksit Gram Panchayats paving the way for Viksit Bharat

BJP MP and former CM Basavaraj Bommai said the state government has failed on all fronts and that corruption has increased across every department. He also accused the government of "introducing an unconstitutional law on hate speech with the intention of suppressing the opposition"

SUBURBAN RAIL: B'LURU'S LOST MOBILITY DECADE, WITH HOPE OF RECOVERY

Planned as a high-capacity alternative to congested roads with a key corridor running from KSR Bengaluru City Railway Station to the KIA, the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP) was expected to ease daily travel across the city. Initially scheduled to be operational by 2023, delay in executing the project, which is less expensive than Metro, has worsened the commuting crisis. But Suburban Rail can still make a difference. It offers higher capacity than Metro, faster average speeds, better comfort for longer journeys and seamless integration with the Indian Railways. It is high time technocrats and people's representatives come together to ensure that the project is executed on time



IN A NUTSHELL

Corridors	Route	Distance (km)	Work done (%)
C-1 (Sampige)	KSR to Yelahanka to Devanahalli + airport link	41.4	0%
C-2 (Mallige)	Baiyappanahalli to Yeshwanthpur to Chikkabanavara	25.01	28%
C-3 (Parijaata)	Kengeri to KSR to Whitefield	35.52	0%
C-4 (Kanaka)	Heelalige to Yelahanka to Rajanakunte	46.24	6%
TOTAL LENGTH		148.17	

A basic suburban rail service could have been introduced much earlier with minimal investment

– Sanjeev Dyamannavar, mobility and rail expert

TIMELINE

- **OCT 21, 2020** — The Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project officially sanctioned by Union cabinet. The project envisages a 148.17-km network across four corridors, to be executed by K-RIDE, a joint venture of the Karnataka government and the Ministry of Railways
- **JUNE 20, 2022** — The prime minister lays the foundation stone for the project and states that a project discussed for 40 years will be completed in 40 months.
- **OCT 2023** — (original deadline for Corridor 1): As per the sanction letter, the KSR Bengaluru Cityâ "Yelahankaâ€"Devanahalli (airport) corridor was to be completed. No construction begins on this corridor.
- **JULY 2025** — L&T, the contractor for Corridors 2 and 4, withdrew from the project citing incomplete land handover, bringing the project to standstill.
- **OCT'20** — The 40-month deadline, promised by the PM, ends.
- **DEC 1, 2025** — Lakshman Singh, a railway professional, takes charge as Managing Director of K-RIDE, fulfilling a long-pending demand for a full-time technical head.
- **CURRENT STATUS** — More than five years after sanction, the project is yet to see full-scale construction across all corridors.

INDRA S @Bengaluru

THE journey from the heart of the city at KSR Bengaluru Railway station to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) could have taken just 60 minutes over 40 km, no honking traffic, no crawling past Hebbal or Yelahanka and no missed flights. Instead, delays in executing the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP) have denied Bengalureans this relief and pushed the city's mobility back by nearly a decade, say experts. Planned as a high-capacity alternative to congested roads, BSRP was expected to ease daily travel across the city. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) projected daily ridership of 9.84 lakh passengers by 2025, rising to 13.41 lakh by 2031 and 17.60 lakh by 2041. Today, these numbers read less like forecasts and more like reminders of opportunities lost.

The project is being implemented by the Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE), a joint venture between the Karnataka government and Railway ministry. It spans 148.17 km across four corridors linking the city, suburbs, and the airport. After years of delay, there is cautious hope that the project may finally gather pace with a new full-time managing director being appointed.

A city that outgrew its roads

Bengaluru's traffic crisis did not happen overnight. As mobility and rail expert Sanjeev Dyamannavar points out, the city began expanding rapidly from the 1980s, and growth accelerated sharply after the 1990s IT boom. Jobs multiplied, tech parks mushroomed, and suburbs stretched farther out -- Whitefield, Yelahanka, Kengeri, Yeshwanthpur and beyond. What did not keep pace was mass public transport.

Roads became the default solution. Flyovers, underpasses, signal-free corridors, and later elevated roads and tunnel road proposals became the city's response to congestion. But each road-based fix only shifted bottlenecks from one junction to another.

"A basic suburban rail service could have been introduced much earlier with minimal investment," Dyamannavar says. Existing railway lines already crisscrossed the city and its periphery. With better timetables, additional rakes and modest infrastructure upgrades, Bengaluru could have had local trains by the early 2000s. That did not happen, he adds.

Instead, the city lost "a decade of mobility", he rues. By 2015, Bengaluru should have had at least hourly suburban services to Tumakuru, Bidadi, Mysuru and Bangarpet. Even that basic level was never achieved.

What data tells us

The tragedy of the delay becomes clearer when one looks at what the DPR and surveys revealed years ago. A household opinion survey conducted for the DPR showed overwhelming support for better public transport. About 91-96% of respondent households said they were willing to shift to a good public transport system, while only a small minority wanted to continue with their existing mode of travel.

Travel patterns already showed stress on roads. In 2015, around 27% of trips were made by two-wheelers, 32% by public transport (including buses and Metro) and 7% by autos and taxis. Walk trips accounted for 26%. Average trip lengths for motorised travel ranged from 8-12 km, exactly the kind of distances suburban rail is best suited for.

In simple terms, the need was clear, the demand was proven, and public willingness existed. What was missing was execution.

From idea to sanction and then silence

The idea of a suburban rail for Bengaluru was discussed for decades. When the project was finally sanctioned on October 21, 2020, there was optimism. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone in June 2022 and said a project that took 40 years to discuss would be completed in 40 months.

Those 40 months ended two months ago

As Rajkumar Dugar, founder of Citizens for Citizens, points out, the project has now been sanctioned for over five years, or 62 months to be precise, yet progress remains minimal.

"The biggest challenge has been lack of genuine interest from public representatives," he says.

The Members of Parliament who represent constituencies through which the four suburban rail corridors pass have not consistently reviewed or pushed the project. In some cases, there were zero formal reviews in five years, highlights Dugar.

The suburban rail rarely featured in speeches or priorities. Metro and buses did. Roads certainly did.

Internal battles and lost years

The delay was not just due to apathy. There were also internal conflicts. One of the most damaging episodes involved Corridor 1, which was crucial as it linked KSR Bengaluru City station to Devanahalli, says Dugar. The sanction letter clearly stated that all four corridors were to be completed by October 2026, but Corridor 1 was to be up and running by October 2023.

When this became public, Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) objected. At the time, the airport Metro had not yet been sanctioned. BMRCL feared that suburban rail would weaken the case for Metro funding and wrote to the state government asking that Corridor 1 be downgraded in priority, Dugar explains.

The Department of Urban Land Transport (DULT) rejected this request in a detailed letter in August 2021, stating that suburban rail had stronger merits as an airport connector. That letter later surfaced through RTI.

Despite this, Corridor 1 was sidelined. Corridors 2 and 4 were taken up first, without clear public explanation. This confusion cost the project at least one to two crucial years -- years Bengaluru could ill afford to lose.

The project also suffered a major setback when Larsen & Toubro (L&T), the contractor for Corridors 2 and 4, withdrew, citing incomplete land handover. The issue eventually moved to court, bringing construction on key stretches to a halt.

While Corridor 2 has since been re-tendered, tenders are yet to be called for Corridor 4, further stretching delays. Ironically, station construction has continued under separate contracts even as track work remains stalled, raising concerns that the city could end up with stations without operational rail lines -- a scenario activists warn reflects poor coordination and the broader execution challenges facing the project.

The cost of delay: Time, money and quality of life

The human cost of these delays is visible every day on Bengaluru's roads. Around 70,000 cars and cabs travel to and from Kempegowda International Airport daily, serving nearly 1.7 lakh people. Hebbal flyover, Mekhri Circle and Sankey Road are routinely choked, he adds.

Had the suburban rail airport corridor opened by October 2023, as planned, this load would have reduced significantly. Today, it could have taken just 60 minutes to cover 40 km from the city to the airport, Dugar says. With Terminal 2 expanding and Terminal 3 planned, airport traffic will only increase.

There is also the financial cost. Metro costs around Rs 500 crore per km, while suburban rail Rs 100–200 crore. Every year of delay means higher construction costs, inflation and more public money spent later for the same outcome, experts say.

But the biggest loss is everyday life. Long commutes drain energy, reduce productivity, worsen pollution and steal time from families. As rail activist Krishna Prasad notes, driving during peak hours — whether on a two-wheeler or in a car, is exhausting. Traffic today is far worse than a decade ago, with vehicle numbers rising rapidly.

A turning point, at last?

After years of ad hoc arrangements, a key condition was finally met in December 2025. Lakshman Singh, a railway professional, took charge as Managing Director of K-RIDE. For activists and experts, this has brought cautious hope.

Krishna Prasad believes a technical MD with railway experience can make a difference. Singh has handled complex projects before, coordinated with the Indian Railways, and has a tenure of three years. That alone removes one major hurdle.

But optimism is guarded. Retendering for stalled corridors must be completed quickly. Rolling stock decisions are still pending. Depots, without which trains cannot run, are yet to progress meaningfully.

Experts like Dyamannavar stress the need for partial commissioning. Even opening 8–10 km sections can reduce congestion and rebuild public trust. The Baiyappanahalli–Chikkabanavara stretch and parts of the airport corridor could be fast-tracked.

Choose execution or lose another decade

According to experts, BSRP does not suffer from technical impossibility. It suffers from lack of urgency, ownership and political will.

If implemented, suburban rail can still make a difference. It offers higher capacity than Metro, faster average speeds, better comfort for longer journeys, and seamless integration with the Indian Railways. It can shift thousands of commuters off roads every day.

Bengaluru has already paid dearly for delay, with lost time, rising pollution, wasted fuel and frayed nerves. Whether the next few years mark a true turning point will depend on one simple question: Will the city finally choose execution over endless discussion?

For a city that has already lost a decade in mobility, it cannot afford to lose another.

Another Delhi visit in offing for CM, DCM?

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

IN the backdrop of the leadership change imbroglio in the Karnataka Congress government, political circles are abuzz with talk that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar may travel to New Delhi on December 26 or 27.

A Congress leader clarified that a Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting is scheduled for December 27, but the leadership issue does not figure in the agenda, and there is no official invitation yet for either leader to attend the meeting.

"Perhaps they could discuss this issue either before or after the CWC. As of now, there is no official intimation to the CM or DCM to attend these meetings," the leader said, dismissing reports of an imminent Delhi summons.

Another senior Congress leader remarked that the camps of the two top Karnataka leaders were "playing mind games" amid continued speculation over a power-sharing arrangement for the CM's post. The disagreement between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar centres on whether there exists a power-sharing agreement, particularly the oft-rumoured "two-and-a-half-year" rotation formula under which Shivakumar would take over midway through the government's five-year term. The issue, which has lingered since the Congress formed the government in May 2023, resurfaced sharply in December 2025 following a series of conflicting public statements.

Siddaramaiah has repeatedly denied the existence of any such agreement. On December 19, he said, "I never said anything about 'two and a half years'. There is no such agreement." He also asserted that he would continue as chief minister unless the party high command decided otherwise. "I am the chief minister now, and I will remain so until the high command says otherwise," he said, adding that the government would complete its full term.

In contrast, Shivakumar has maintained that an agreement was brokered by the Congress high command at the time of government formation. He has stated that the high command would take a call at the "appropriate time" and that he would abide by its decision. While dismissing speculation about secret meetings, he has continued to assert that the leadership issue was settled through an internal understanding.

Opposition parties, meanwhile, have seized on the renewed statements to highlight what they describe as "internal contradictions" within the ruling Congress.

Support for Siddu unshakable: Rajanna

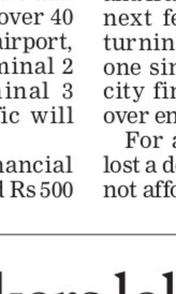
Bengaluru: A day after Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar met former cooperation minister K N Rajanna, the latter on Sunday clarified that the visit makes no difference politically and his commitment to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is "unshakable". "Shivakumar had met me as party president as he can call anyone (Congress leaders) and talk to them. The president will do whatever he feels is necessary in the interest of the party. I will continue to be a supporter of Siddaramaiah," he said . He maintained that apart from the party organisation, no key issue was discussed with Shivakumar. He had stated that Siddaramaiah should continue as CM for a full term of five years and if it becomes inevitable for him to step down, Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara should be appointed as chief minister. ENS

With backers lobbying with Congress top brass, Dr G may land DCM post

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

HOME Minister Dr G Parameshwara, being touted as the dark horse for the chief minister's post amid the change in leadership tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, is waiting to meet the high command leaders to throw his hat into the ring, sources said.

Parameshwara, backed by the Siddaramaiah camp, is likely to visit Delhi on December 26, on the eve of the Congress Working Committee meeting that will discuss issues of national importance. It is to be seen if he can meet senior party leader Sonia Gandhi, with whom he had a good equation. Though he has not been to Delhi in a while, his sympathisers are said to be lobbying for him with the high command, sources said.



If not the CM post, Parameshwara could land the deputy chief minister's post. But he is pitted against AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge's son and RDPR minister Priyank Kharge, who seems to have emerged as a strong contender for that position under the Dalit quota, sources added.

"You (media) are planting many aspirants for the CM post. But I have said on many occasions that I will adhere to the high command's decision," he told reporters. He was answering a query on whether Shivakumar who contacted several leaders from the Siddaramaiah camp, left him out considering him to be a serious contender for the CM's post.

He felt it is better for the high command to resolve the confusion over change in leadership in the interest of development, as the state budget is fast approaching and is likely to be presented in February 2026. "The high Command has seen many situations like this (Karnataka's) and can resolve it in a fraction of a second. But it could be waiting for the right time to intervene as it is reportedly summoning Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar," he maintained.

"When I meet the high command, I will suggest that they put an end to the confusion and statements from different leaders. People have elected us to deliver the goods that we promised in our manifesto," he said. He clarified that he will visit Delhi only if the situation demands. "I will not go to Delhi unnecessarily and upset my health in the chilling cold and pollution," he joked.

Yet, it is interesting to see if he will accompany the CM Siddaramaiah camp during his visit to Delhi.

DKS' temple sprint keeps buzz of his CM gaddi dreams alive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's recent temple sprint may well earn him a unique political footnote — a Congress leader whose temple visits now rival, if not outnumber, those of BJP stalwarts. Over the past few weeks, Shivakumar has embarked on an intense round of prayers across prominent shrines, sharply fuelling speculation of an imminent leadership shake-up in Karnataka.

The timing is hard to miss: the visits coincide with renewed murmurs of a power-sharing tussle with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. From late November to mid-December, Shivakumar made a string of high-profile stops, especially in coastal Karnataka.

On November 29, he visited the Bhoo Varaha Swamy Temple in Mandya with his wife Usha, soon after what Congress leaders described as a "truce" breakfast with Siddaramaiah. Shivakumar later said the shrine held deep personal meaning, recalling prayers offered there during his time in jail. The pace picked up on December 19 with a special pooja at the Mahabaleshwar Temple in Gokarna, followed by over two hours of closed-door rituals and homa at the Sri Jagadishwari Temple near Ankola on Kalratri Amavasya. This was his first visit to a coastal Shakti Peetha in nearly five years, triggering intense political chatter.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar with priests after offering prayers at the Sri Mahabaleshwar Temple in Gokarna recently | EXPRESS

The following day, he offered prayers at the Idagunji Ganapathi Temple, rounding off the coastal circuit. Shivakumar has consistently dismissed political readings, saying his prayers are "between me and the deity". Opposition leaders, including JDS leader and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy, have derided the exercise as devotion driven by power ambitions.

"It is true that Shivakumar is making a heady mix of 'spiritualism' and power politics. He knows this is how he can reach out to God-abiding and commercially minded decision-makers in his party. He has also kept the Vokkaliga seer on his side. The moot question is how many MLAs back him really," said Prof P S Jayaramu, political analyst.

In a positive development, Mysuru district has recorded a significant decline in maternal mortality. From January to December 2024, the district reported 28 maternal deaths, with a maternal mortality rate (MMR) of 76.5. However, between January and December 2025, maternal deaths dropped to 11 and the MMR reduced sharply to 30.2

Ornaments, cash worth ₹3L stolen in B'gavi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

TAKING advantage of the house being locked due to a family function, unidentified thieves broke into the residence of a goldsmith at Om Nagar Fourth Cross in Khasbagh of Belagavi and decamped with gold, silver ornaments and cash worth approximately Rs 3.45 lakh. The theft occurred between 6:45 pm and 12:45 am at the house of Sudesh Gokul Pednekar. The family had gone to Udyambagh to attend a function marking Pednekar's wedding anniversary.

After confirming that the house was unoccupied, the thieves broke open the window grill of the hall to gain entry. They then ransacked cupboards in the hall and the puja room, making away with valuables including 28 grams of gold ornaments worth about Rs 2.55 lakh, 600 grams of silver ornaments valued at Rs 42,000, and Rs 48,000 in cash.

Self-styled 'hatha yogi' gets 35-yr RI for raping minor girl

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

IN a powerful verdict underscoring zero tolerance for crimes against children, Special POCSO Court in Belagavi sentenced a 30-year-old man, who presented himself as a spiritual figure 'Sri Hatha Yogi Lokeshwar Mahaswami' to 35 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) for the kidnapping and serial rape of a minor girl. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh on him.

The convict, Lokeshwar Sabanna Jambagi (30), originally from Chittapur in Kalaburagi district, was found guilty under multiple stringent sections of the POCSO Act and the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The court, presided over by Judge C M Pushpalata, established that the accused, fully aware that the victim was a minor, lured her into his car on May 13, 2025, under the false pretext of dropping her home. Instead, he kidnapped her, driving via Mahalingpur to Bagalkot and then onwards to a lodge in Mantralayam, Andhra Pradesh.

On May 14, he sexually assaulted her. He repeated the crime at another lodge in Bagalkot after returning on May 16. The nightmare for the girl ended only when he dropped her at Mahalingpur bus stand, threatening her with death if she disclosed the ordeal to anyone. The case, initially registered at the Mudalgi police station, was investigated by CPI Shrishail Byakod. The investigation proved pivotal, with crucial evidence including CCTV footage capturing the abduction. The charge-sheet, based on testimonies of 8 witnesses, 78 documents, and 9 material objects, was filed before the Additional District and Sessions Court (Special Fast Track POCSO Court-01) in Belagavi. Judge Pushpalata, in her ruling, stated that the charges against the accused were proven beyond reasonable doubt based on the exhaustive evidence.

Breakdown of the sentence, compensation

The total sentence of 35 years of RI is a composite of convictions under various sections: Seven years under BNSS 137(2) for kidnapping with intent to compel marriage, 10 years under relevant sections for aggravated sexual assault (POCSO), additional terms for criminal intimidation, wrongful confinement, and other charges. The court mandated that the Rs 1 lakh fine, if recovered, be given to the survivor.

The court ordered the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to pay Rs 4 lakh as compensation to the survivor. This amount is to be kept as a fixed deposit in a nationalised bank for five years to secure her future.

SEEKING BLESSINGS

Union Minister for Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy performs pooja with Adichunchanagiri Mutt seer Nirmalanandanatha swami at Kalabhairava temple at Adichunchanagiri on Sunday | EXPRESS

Soldier on leave killed in accident

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

A tragic incident has plunged Boragal village in Hukkeri taluk of Belagavi district into deep mourning after a young soldier, who had returned home on leave, lost his life in a road accident. The deceased has been identified as **Yash R Chougala** (21). He had been selected into the Indian Army seven months ago and was undergoing training. After completing six months of service, Yash had recently arrived at his native village on leave.

According to reports, Yash had gone out for a morning walk when an unidentified vehicle hit him and fled the scene. He sustained severe injuries and suffered heavy blood loss. He was rushed to a private hospital, but despite treatment, he succumbed to his injuries late last night. The untimely death of the young soldier has left his family devastated, and the entire village is enveloped in grief. Villagers have demanded a thorough investigation into the incident, urging the authorities to identify the vehicle involved and ensure justice for the bereaved family. On Thursday, the mortal remains of Yash Chougala were taken in a procession through his native village, with thousands of villagers paying their last respects. He was laid to rest with full military honours, amid emotional scenes and slogans saluting the fallen soldier.

Travel operators, driver unions welcome Bharat Taxi pilot

INDRA S @ Bengaluru

TRAVEL operators and auto-cab unions have welcomed the Centre's pilot rollout of the Bharat Taxi platform amid rising public anger over surge pricing, but said the initiative's success will depend on market response rather than policy intent.

They also flagged concerns over private players approaching the Union government to extend backend technology support, stressing that the platform must remain transparent, driver-friendly and consumer-centric. The Bharat Taxi app, currently in its testing phase, is positioned as a government-backed alternative to private aggregators accused of opaque pricing and inconsistent service practises. The model has revived debate over whether publicly run or cooperative mobility systems can withstand the operational agility, technology maturity and capital-driven expansion that other aggregator platforms command. Past attempts by state governments to run similar services struggled to sustain themselves in a competitive mobility market where consumer behaviour and tech upgrades often determine survival.

While frameworks such as the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, and the Competition Act exist, regulators continue to face hurdles in addressing digital-market malpractices.

K Radhakrishna Holla, president of Karnataka State Travel Operators Association, said the Centre's intent to support micro-entrepreneurs and small vehicle owners is welcome, but the eventual outcome hinges on how the market adopts the app. "We must wait and see how the model evolves," he said.

Tanveer Pasha, president of the Ola and Uber Drivers' Association, said the cooperative nature of the platform must be evaluated closely once launched. "If it becomes just another commercial app with high charges, then what is the cooperative structure? Who runs it?" he said. Pasha also warned against allowing private entities to take over backend functions, alleging that earlier welfare assurances from them 'never materialised'.

Manjunath, president of Adarsha Auto Union, said the model resembles large cooperatives, where profits are partly returned to members. He said a transparent, meter-based system with minimal service charges and annual refunds could help drivers earn with dignity and fair fares for consumers while giving reliable mobility data.

Winter dryness triggers rise in psoriasis cases

GAYATHRI M KURUP @Bengaluru

DERMATOLOGISTS in Bengaluru are reporting an increase in psoriasis cases during the ongoing winter season, with both new patients and those previously under control experiencing flare-ups. Doctors attribute this rise mainly to cold weather, low humidity and indoor heating, which worsen skin dryness and inflammation.

"Psoriasis cases have increased by nearly 10 to 15 per cent this winter. This year has seen a very cold winter. We are seeing more psoriasis patients, and even older patients who were under control now need slightly higher medications or stronger treatment to manage their existing psoriasis," shared Dr Praveen Bharadwaj, Consultant - Dermatology at Manipal Hospital Whitefield. "The use of heaters or air-conditioned indoor heating can worsen psoriasis," Dr Bharadwaj said. He advised patients to protect their skin indoors by using adequate moisturisers, wearing protective clothing and avoiding heaters or air-conditioning as much as possible.

Dr Suma KR, Specialist – Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy at Aster Whitefield Hospital, said winter dryness is a major factor behind psoriasis flare-ups. "During winter, the air becomes colder and drier, leading to increased skin dryness or xerosis. This dryness causes more flaking and irritation, and when the skin is not adequately moisturised, psoriasis symptoms tend to worsen," she said.

She adds that low humidity plays a bigger role than reduced sunlight in aggravating psoriasis. "Humid environments often improve psoriasis because moisture in the air helps hydrate the skin. In contrast, colder or high-altitude regions with dry air, such as Bengaluru or hill stations, tend to worsen symptoms," she said. She added that moderate sunlight exposure during non-peak hours with a safe UV index can mildly improve psoriasis by slowing excessive skin cell turnover.

Dr Neema Sandra Dias, Dermatologist at TriLife Hospital, said managing psoriasis requires more than basic skin hydration. She advised regular use of moisturisers containing ceramides or urea to help protect the skin barrier and reduce scaling. Using humidifiers indoors can help maintain skin moisture, while opting for short, lukewarm showers instead of hot baths can prevent further irritation. She said phototherapy or regulated exposure to sunlight may help manage symptoms when recommended by a dermatologist. In addition, maintaining a consistent routine, managing stress and following a balanced diet can reduce flare-ups. She emphasised that timely guidance and individualised treatment plans play a key role in long-term control.

Dr Bharadwaj said an increase in the number or size of lesions, the appearance of pustular rashes and increased joint pain are warning signs that require urgent medical consultation.

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BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri-O&M), 8th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	Kaveri O&M-2	BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/ PB/2067/2025-26 Dated: 18.12.2025	₹ 31,34,827/- / ₹ 63,000/-	29.12.2025 upto 4:00 pm	30.12.2025 after 5:00 pm
2.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/ PB/2068/2025-26 Dated: 18.12.2025	₹ 30,89,366/- / ₹ 62,000/-		
3.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/ PB/2069/2025-26 Dated: 18.12.2025	₹ 84,29,802/- / ₹ 1,70,000/-		
4.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/ PB/2070/2025-26 Dated: 18.12.2025	₹ 13,45,812/- / ₹ 34,000/-		
5.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/ PB/2071/2025-26 Dated: 18.12.2025	₹ 21,88,860/- / ₹ 50,000/-		
6.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/ PB/2072/2025-26 Dated: 18.12.2025	₹ 38,32,367/- / ₹ 77,000/-		
7.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/ PB/2073/2025-26 Dated: 18.12.2025	₹ 25,67,088/- / ₹ 52,000/-		
8.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/ PB/2074/2025-26 Dated: 18.12.2025	₹ 58,76,035/- / ₹ 1,18,000/-		
9.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/ PB/2075/2025-26 Dated: 18.12.2025	₹ 78,93,980/- / ₹ 1,60,000/-		
10.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/2076 /2025-26 Dated: 18.12.2025 (Reserved for CAT-2A)	₹ 56,97,699/- / ₹ 57,000/-		
11.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/ PB/2077/2025-26 Dated: 18.12.2025	₹ 80,84,622/- / ₹ 1,62,000/-		
12.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/ PB/2078/2025-26 Dated: 18.12.2025	₹ 30,86,450/- / ₹ 62,000/-		
13.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/2079 /2025-26 Dated: 18.12.2025 (Reserved for CAT-2A)	₹ 82,20,437/- / ₹ 83,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Kaveri-O&M)-2

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/4588/CCL/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
LABORATORY FOR ELECTRO OPTICS SYSTEMS(LEOS)
इसरो ISRO **LEOS Construction & Maintenance Division (LCMD)**
PEENYA, BANGALORE-560058
(Phone: 080-22685086, 5047, 5094, 28392310)
CORRIGENDUM - I

Sl.No	Description	Details
1	Name of work	Contract for Washing & Pressing of leveries at LEOS Campus & New Guest House, Peenya, Bangalore-58.
2	E-Tender Notice No.	CMG/LEOS/2025-26/LMN-07 Dtd: 24.11.2025
3	Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 2.35 Lakhs
4	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	Extended up to 16.30 hrs on 24/12/2025
5	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14.30 hrs. on 29/12/2025
6	Due date and time of opening of tenders	After 15.00 hrs on 29/12/2025

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.

Sd/-,
Group Director, C&MG

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II AT BANGALORE

BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House ,Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore -560 001

O.A. No.875/2021

BETWEEN : BANK OF INDIA, Kothanur Branch, No. 1 & 2, Indradhanush Layout, Gubbi Cross, Hennur Bagalur Road, Kothanur, Bangalore - 560 077. ...Applicant

And

Sri Prasanna Kumar G., and Others ...Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To, Defendants:

3. M/s. Samrudhi Reality Ltd., [A company incorporated under the Provisions Act, 1956], having its Regd., Office at : No. 1, 2nd Floor, Tate Lane Richmond Road Cross, Bangalore - 560 025. Rep by its Authorised Signatory Mr. Yashodara.

Under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against the defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.77,57,876.03 ps** (Rupees Seventy Seven Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Six and paise Three Only) together with current and future interest and other reliefs.

The above mentioned defendants are required to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate in support of their defense to show cause within 30 days or on **03.02.2026 at 10.30 a.m.** as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this the **12.12.2025 .**

By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II.

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THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED

MARK TWAIN

Aeronautical Development Agency
(Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India)
PB No. 1718, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore-560017

Advt. Reference No. ADA: ADV-135:2025 19-12-2025

Recruitment of 'Project Scientists' on Programme Based Limited Tenure Contract Appointment

Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) is an Autonomous Body and a Society entrusted with the task of Design and Development of LCA AF Mk-II, (AMCA) and other important projects of national importance. ADA invites applications from Indian Citizens to the post of **'Project Scientist'** on 'Programme based fixed tenure appointment' initially for a period of Three years and extendable based on performance and requirement of the programme. The details of the requirement are mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Upper Age Limit	Minimum No. of years of Experience Essential	Gross Emoluments per month at Current rates (Rs.)	No. of Post(s)
1.	Project Scientist 'E'	50 Years	10 - 15 Years	2,01,794/-	01
2.	Project Scientist 'D'	45 Years	7 -10 Years	1,24,612/-	02
3.	Project Scientist 'C'	40 Years	3 - 7 Years	1,08,073/-	02

2. This advertisement is purely indicative in nature. For more information pertaining to crucial date eligibility criteria, minimum required essential qualification, experience and other important instructions, please read detailed advertisement which will be available on ADA's official website ***www.ada.gov.in*** under "Recruitment" option in Menu. For registration and submission of online application, please log on to ADA website. It is requested to go through the detailed advertisement carefully before filling up the online application.

Detailed advertisement will be available on ADA's official website ***www.ada.gov.in***

Online link for registration and applying will be active (tentatively) from 22nd December 2025, 1000 hrs on ADA website

All interested candidates are requested to follow the website for updates.

Director (Admin & HR), ADA

Aeronautical Development Agency
(Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India)
PB No. 1718, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore-560017

Advt. Reference No. ADA: ADV-136:2025 19-12-2025

RECRUITMENT: PROGRAMME BASED MANPOWER ON LIMITED TENURE CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) is an Autonomous Body and a Society entrusted with the task of Design and Development of LCA AF Mk-II, (AMCA) and other important projects of national importance. ADA invites applications from Indian Citizens for the following posts on Programme based fixed tenure appointment for an initial period of **Five years** and extendable based on performance and requirement of the programme. The details of the requirement are mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Upper Age Limit	Minimum No. of years of Experience Essential	Gross Emoluments per month at Current rates (Rs.)	No. of Post(s)
1.	Project Admin Assistant (PAA)	35 Years	03 Years	35,220/-	13
2.	Project Senior Admin Assistant (PSAA)	45 Years	06 Years	47,496/-	10
3.	Project Admin Officer (PAO)	50 Years	10 Years	59,276/-	05
4.	Project Technical Assistant (PTA)	35 Years	03 Years	35,220/-	10
5.	Project Senior Technical Assistant (PSTA)	45 Years	07 Years	50,224/-	05

2. This advertisement is purely indicative in nature. For more information pertaining to crucial date eligibility criteria, minimum required essential qualification, experience and other important instructions, please read detailed advertisement which will be available on ADA's official website ***www.ada.gov.in*** under "Recruitment" option in Menu. For registration and submission of online application, please log on to ADA website. It is requested to go through the detailed advertisement carefully before filling up the online application.

Detailed advertisement will be available on ADA's official website ***www.ada.gov.in***

Online link for registration and applying will be active (tentatively) from29th December 2025, 1000 hrs on ADA website

All interested candidates are requested to follow the website for updates.

Director (Admin & HR), ADA

BJP leader and Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna on Monday said he was not eyeing the position of the party's state chief. He said he was happy with the recognition the high command has already given him. "I am not an applicant for the post of state BJP president. The high command will decide on this. The BJP has given me recognition by choosing me for a ministerial berth," he said

Govt sets ball rolling on e-auction of unused excise licences, eyes Rs 1k cr

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

IN a first since the inception of the state Excise department in 1965, the Congress government has set the ball rolling for the auctioning of unused retail licences.

"This is the first time unused and unallotted Excise licences are being auctioned to generate revenue. The government is expecting to earn around Rs 1,000 crore through the e-auctioning process. Some licences that the department had issued to government owned MSIL (CL-11C) and were not opened have been taken back and are being auctioned under the CL-2A (CL-2 retail liquor shops) category only. The CL-9A licences (CL-9 bars & restaurants) that are being auctioned were discontinued and hence brought under the auction pool," Joint Commissioner, Excise, Indian Made Liquor (IML), T Nagarajappa told TNIE. "Maximum number of licences - 182 out of 569 - will be auctioned for the eight (Excise) districts in Bengaluru Urban District (BUD)," he added.

TNIE had reported on the auction notification and details on December 7.

The gazette notification for the e-auction was issued on December 19 and the applications will be open from December 23 onwards. In all, 569 unused CL-2A and CL-9A licences will be auctioned through a transparent, electronic process. Registration process for bidders will start from December 22 and live e-bidding will take place between January 13, 2026 and January 20, 2026. Bidders are eligible to participate in the online auction "only after completing the registration process and the payment is confirmed online in their wallet. Bidders are advised to complete the registration process 48 hours before the start of the auction in the particular slot they wish to participate," reads the notification. Bidders must register on the online e-

auction platform of MSTC Limited. Htttps://www.mstcecommerce.com. They have to pay a one-time registration fee of Rs 1,000 plus applicable GST online. "Application fee for each licence shall be non-refundable Rs 50,000," it states.

The government has provided 6% reservation for Scheduled Caste-A category, 6% for Scheduled Caste-B, 5% for Scheduled Caste-C and 7% for Scheduled Tribe in the auction of CL(2-A) and CL(9-A) licences through e-auction.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in the 2025-26 budget, had proposed to allocate the unused liquor licences through a transparent electronic auction which is expected to aid in additional resource mobilisation to the state.

The government has published a notification for allotment of 569 licences through e-auction after making necessary amendments to the Excise Rules. The discontinued/unallotted CL-2 and CL (11-C) licences have been classified as CL(2-A) and the discontinued CL-9 licences are classified as CL(9-A). Accordingly, 477 CL(2-A) and 92 CL(9-A) licences are available for e-auction.

(Details of the e-auction schedule will be available on the Karnataka State Excise Department portal https://stateexcise.karnataka.gov.in and the e-auction platform of MSTC portal https://www.mstcecommerce.com)

GLOBAL ATTENTION PROJECT

Hampi tourism facelift a key focal point in Union Budget

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @ Hampi/Hosapete

The historic town of Hampi has emerged as a key focal point in the Union government's budget, which is scheduled for the month of February, following high-level consultations chaired by Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman.

The minister chaired a Chintan Shibira, a strategic consultation workshop of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in Hampi as part of the preparatory process for the upcoming Union Budget. The choice of venue underlined the government's intent to integrate heritage-led development with national economic policy.

The deliberations were attended by Union Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Harsh Malhotra, secretaries of both ministries, the Chairmen of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the chief economic adviser, senior officials, and around 110 IAS officers.

Holding the consultations in Hampi allowed the policymakers to gain region-specific insights and understand grassroots-level challenges. Local business owners, tourism stakeholders, state-recognised tourist guides and elected representatives presented their demands and suggestions directly before the finance minister and senior officials.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at a light and sound event held in Hampi on Saturday | SHIVASHANKAR BANAGAR

A significant portion of the discussions focused on the Global Attention Project for Hampi. Stakeholders highlighted the need for increased budgetary support for heritage conservation, sustainable tourism, improved infrastructure and better visitor facilities, while ensuring the preservation of Hampi's cultural and historical identity.

Tourist guides and local representatives advocated for developing Hampi as a dedicated global heritage hub, positioning it as a model for heritage-driven economic growth.

Officials noted that insights gathered during the Chintan Shibira would play a crucial role in shaping policy priorities and budget allocations for tourism and cultural conservation. Sources confirmed that the consultations concluded with a reaffirmation of the Centre's commitment to inclusive growth, fiscal discipline, and leveraging India's rich cultural legacy as a catalyst for regional and national development placing Hampi firmly at the heart of this year's Union Budget discussions.

Clockwise from top left: Pulse polio vaccination drives being organised by Vydehi Hospital in Whitefield, on a temple premises in Kengeri and by Rotary Club in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

Rotary Club, BMTC join vax drive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

BANGALORE Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) Chairman VS Aradhya inaugurated the Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme at the Kempegowda Bus Station on Sunday.

The drive was organised jointly by the Greater Bangalore Authority (GBA) and the Rotary Club. Aradhya said the pulse polio drive plays a vital role in safeguarding the health of children. He highlighted the significance of public participation and the contribution of voluntary organisations in the successful implementation of the initiative.

Officials from GBA and the Rotary Club, along with medical professionals, volunteers and members of the public participated in the programme.

PULSE POLIO DRIVE IN STATE MEETS 96% TARGET ON DAY 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

ON the very first day of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launching the Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme, the state machinery vaccinated 96% of the more than 62.4 lakh children it had targeted for the four-day drive.

Earlier, speaking at the inaugural event organised at the chief minister's official residence on Sunday, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao urged parents to ensure that every child receives the polio drops without fail.

"The two drops are extremely important. Parents must ensure that all children are vaccinated," said Rao, adding, "The vaccine is completely safe and parents are urged to not pay heed to rumours."

Rao said a door-to-door vaccination drive will be held for two or three days, covering children up to the age of five. The state has set a target of vaccinating 62.4 lakh children. For the smooth conduct of the campaign, the state has set up 33,258 booths, 1,030 mobile teams and 1,096 transit teams. Altogether 1,13,115 lakh vaccination workers and 7,322 supervisors will administer the vaccine. Parents can locate the nearest vaccination centre using the Nearby Vaccination Centre Karnataka app, the minister said.

Rao also said that India's success in staying polio-free for the past 14 years is the result of sustained vaccination and public awareness drives since the programme began in 1978. Still, continued vigilance is essential, as polio cases are being reported in neighbouring countries such as Pakistan and Afghanistan, he said.

89% of tracks in SWR electrified; B'luru division completes 99%

INDRA S @ Bengaluru

FOLLOWING a recent statement from the Indian Railways highlighting the near completion (99%) of electrification across India's broad-gauge network, the South Western Railway (SWR) has said that it has electrified nearly 89% of its railway network. The Bengaluru Division has achieved over 99% completion. This marks a significant milestone in SWR's push for cleaner and more energy-efficient train operations. Of the total 3,721.689 route kilometres (RKM), including newly commissioned routes, 3,305 RKM has already been electrified.

According to official data, electrification work is currently pending on a few key sections. These include the Caranzol–Sonalium stretch (8.148 RKM) and the Donigal–Shiribagilu section (32 RKM), which are scheduled for completion by January 2026. Another major pending stretch is the Amaravathi–Vyasa Colony section, spanning 120 RKM, where civil and electrical works are progressing at different stages. While foundation work has been completed 91%, mast erection stands at 69% and wiring work has reached 17%.

The railway authorities said electrification will be taken up at a later stage on several newly sanctioned railway lines. These include the Ginigera–Sindhanur section (84.61 RKM), Talkal–Linganbandi (45.55 RKM), Bagalkot–Kudachi (30 RKM) and Rayadurga–Doddahalli (81.72 RKM). As these lines are still under development, electrification will be planned once construction reaches an advanced stage. Division-wise data shows that the Bengaluru division (SBC) is almost fully electrified, with 1,144.049 RKM electrified out of a total 1,144.984 RKM. The Mysuru division has electrified 1,054.7345 RKM out of 1,141.787 RKM, while the Hubballi division has electrified 1,106.25 RKM of its total 1,434.918 RKM network.

Railway officials said the transition has reduced diesel consumption, cut emissions, lowered operational costs and improved the efficiency of train operations. While several advanced economies continue to rely heavily on diesel traction due to cost or structural constraints, Indian Railways has made rapid progress through sustained planning and consistent execution.

Govt fixes Rs 8k per quintal base price for tur dal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Ballari

BALLARI Deputy Commissioner (DC) **Nagendra Prasad** has announced procurement of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) tur dal under the Central government's Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme. Under this, tur dal will be purchased from farmers at Rs 8,000 per quintal.

At a district task force committee meeting held on Saturday, Prasad said the state government has directed the procurement of tur dal for the 2025–26 season under the Central MSP scheme.

Prasad has instructed officials to establish procurement centres and ensure prescribed quality parameters. The registration process for farmers will continue for 80 days, while the procurement process will extend up to 90 days. He said that warehouses used for procurement must be kept clean and fully prepared, and all necessary arrangements, including standard weighing measures, should be in place before operations begin.

Farmers registering at procurement centres are required to submit copies of their Aadhaar card, land records (Pahani) and passbooks of Aadhaar-linked bank accounts. Registration and procurement will be conducted via POS machines, and biometric verification through Aadhaar will be mandatory. Farmers are expected to cooperate with this process, Prasad said.

The DC also instructed officials to provide farmers with the necessary information to register at nearby centres using their Fruits ID.

Maha MP accuses Belagavi DC of 'rights violation'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

EVEN though Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrations passed off peacefully on November 1 in Belagavi, Maharashtra MP Dhairyasheel Mane has urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to file a case of rights violation against Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate **Mohammad Roshan**.

The development is feared to trigger a fresh political flashpoint over the long-standing border dispute between the two states.

Roshan, widely credited with the tight administrative grip that ensured a grand, incident-free Rajyotsava, had put in place stringent measures to prevent anti-Karnataka demonstrations on the same day.

In a memorandum submitted to Birla in New Delhi, Mane alleged that he was unlawfully restrained at the Karnataka border on November 1, terming the action a grave injustice and a violation of his fundamental rights as an elected representative. He said Roshan issued an "illegal notice", following which police prevented him from entering Karnataka. He said it was a serious violation of democratic values and personal liberty.

Mane said the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES) and Marathi-speaking people in Belagavi observe November 1 as "Black Day", marking what they claim was a historical wrong during the linguistic reorganisation of states in 1956, when Belagavi and 865 Marathi-speaking villages were merged with Karnataka instead of Maharashtra. He said the day is traditionally marked by peaceful protests and black-flag demonstrations.

EXPRESS READ

Govt jobs for Olympic medallists soon: CM

Bengaluru: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday reiterated his promise of bestowing cash prizes and government jobs to Olympic medallists from Karnataka. Speaking at the Karnataka Olympics 2025 Awards ceremony, he said gold, silver and bronze medallists will receive Rs 6 crore, Rs 4 crore and Rs 3 crore, respectively. "After MLC K Govindaraj took over as its president, Karnataka Olympic Association (KOA) has become more active. During my tenure, I laid the foundation stone and inaugurated the building of the KOA. It encourages all sports," said Siddaramaiah, after distributing awards to 18 achievers in different categories. The CM said 3% of the jobs in the police and forest departments as well as 2% of the jobs in other departments will be reserved for sportspersons. A government order will be issued for the job recruitment under sports reservation in January, he said. ENS

Cong's rash decisions cut short Deve Gowda's career, says HDK

B R UDAYA KUMAR @ Hassan

JDS supremo H D Deve Gowda lost his bright political career solely because of the Congress, Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H D Kumaraswamy has said.

Speaking to media persons en route to Balehonnur in Chikkamagaluru district, Kumaraswamy said his father had served both the state and the nation as prime minister, chief minister, and Union Minister, but only for short periods due to hasty and harsh decisions taken by the Congress. He alleged that Congress leaders neither allowed Gowda to rule the country nor the state under different capacities.

Coming down heavily on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for frequently attacking the Central government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Minister said the Chief Minister should release a white paper on the current financial status of the state. He also demanded details of funds released to the agriculture sector over the last two-and-a-half years.

"The Centre has nothing to do with several issues that should be addressed solely by the state government," he said, expressing displeasure over the chief minister's repeated criticism of the Centre, particularly on GST and MSP issues.

Responding to queries about the recent visit of BJP rebel leaders to his residence in New Delhi, Kumaraswamy said the leaders had different views regarding leadership change within the BJP and that the final decision would be taken by the party high command. "No political issue was discussed. They just came, had a cup of tea, and left," he said.

A prison guard attached to the Dindigul district jail was suspended on Saturday evening for selling ganja to prisoners. The guard allegedly bought ganja from ex-convicts and sold them to inmates. According to police, local inputs specified that a prison guard had been supplying ganja to inmates

HC asks Kerala to restart land acquisition process

Court ruled that state failed to determine minimum land required

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Pathanamthitta

SABARI AIRPORT

THE Kerala High Court has nullified key stages of the land acquisition process for the proposed Sabarimala greenfield airport, ruling that the state government failed to determine the minimum extent of land required for the project as mandated by law, and directed the authorities to restart the process after a fresh assessment.

On December 30, 2022, the state government issued an order granting sanction for the acquisition of 2,570 acres of land, comprising the Cheruvally Estate and an additional 307 acres located outside it.

Justice C Jayachandran, delivering the judgment on a writ petition filed by Ayana Charitable Trust (formerly Gospel for Asia) and its managing trustee Dr Siny Punnoose, ruled the decision-making process under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, was legally flawed.

Questioning the land acquisition of 2,570 acres of land, the court also noted that "even for the highest type of aircraft, in an airport contemplating IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) operations, the land required in the ideal scenario is 1200 acres."

The court, in its December 19 order, directed the state to restart the process by conducting a fresh social impact assessment (SIA) limited to examining the minimum land requirement, followed by a fresh appraisal by the expert group and reconsideration by the government.

The land in question, mainly the Cheruvally Estate in Pathanamthitta district, is proposed to be acquired for building a new airport intended to serve Sabarimala pilgrims. The court found that while the state is entitled to acquire land for public purposes, the law clearly mandates that only the "absolute bare minimum" extent of land required for a project can be acquired.

Stalin: Secularism 'bitter' word for BJP

AGENCIES @Tirunelveli

TAMIL Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has alleged that the BJP hated the very concept of secularism and that it is desperate to have it removed from the Constitution.

Presiding over a Christmas event here on Saturday, Stalin hailed the yeoman services of Sarah Tucker, a Christian missionary of the early 19th century, in facilitating education to women of Tirunelveli in southern Tamil Nadu.

"It is the institutions like Sarah Tucker College that serve as the foundation for a large number of women getting educated in southern Tamil Nadu," the CM said.

Christmas is a festival that sows seeds of faith, one that shows compassion, and guides towards peace and celebrates joy. Hindus, Muslims and Christians should live like brothers, and such functions must help it.

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam is the movement that truly cares for the welfare of minorities. It was during the regimes led by the DMK that a plethora of initiatives and schemes were implemented; a virtual golden age for the protection of the welfare of minorities.

Outlining several initiatives, the CM underlined that the subsidy for the Jerusalem pilgrimage has been enhanced and 16 churches have been refurbished at a cost of Rs 2.15 crore.

Also, ancient churches were being renovated at a cost of Rs 20 crore in 12 districts and work is on for new cemeteries in 6 districts by way of allocation of government lands.

The CM said his government has fulfilled demands and carried out renovation and related tasks for all without any discrimination on grounds of religion.

TN CM Stalin inaugurates a govt hospital in Tirunelveli on Sunday

However, Tamil Nadu has realised that the path some organisations intend to lead people in the name of spirituality is the path towards violence. A sense of brotherhood and the power of rationality are what Tamil Nadu stands for. The union government poses a threat to minority communities.

"That is why, when they brought the Citizenship Amendment Act, we strongly opposed it and staged protests. However, the AIADMK supported it." Further, the CM alleged that the BJP hated secularism and wanted to delete it from the Constitution. "As far as the BJP at the Centre is concerned, the very word secularism is bitter for them like the neem fruit. They are desperate to remove it from the Constitution itself." They aim to destroy the nation's diversity and create an authoritarian future of one religion, one language, one culture, one election, one party and one leader. They are trying to implement their plan in Tamil Nadu as well, but the DMK and the state have the strength to oppose and scuttle the BJP's "nefarious designs", he said.

Kerala condemns curbs on X'mas celebrations

AGENCIES @T'puram

KERALA government on Sunday strongly condemned reports that some private school managements imposed restrictions on Christmas celebrations and refunded money collected from students for the event. The government also warned that schools would not be allowed to be turned into "communal laboratories".

Such actions are unheard of in a state like Kerala, which has a high level of democratic consciousness and a long-standing secular tradition, it said. "No one will be permitted to introduce the north Indian models that divide people on the basis of religion or belief in Kerala's educational institutions," state General Education Minister V Sivankutty told reporters here. He said schools are spaces where children learn and grow together, cutting across caste and religion, and any attempt to sow divisive ideas among students is unacceptable.

Festivals such as Onam, Christmas and Eid have traditionally been celebrated together in the state schools, helping children learn mutual respect, love and coexistence, he said.

All schools, whether aided or unaided, are bound by the Constitution of India, education rules and laws of the country, and have a responsibility to uphold values of secularism, Sivankutty further said.

2K Koppal families wait over a decade for houses

YATHIRAJU @Bengaluru

TWO thousand families from economically weaker sections in Koppal district have been waiting for houses under the Vajpayee Urban Housing Scheme for more than a decade. Plants and trees have come up in all 2,000 sites, measuring 20'x30' each. Among them, partial constructions were made on 1,292 sites, and the constructions are yet to start on 788 sites, though a work order was issued in 2013 for construction.

Upa Lokayukta Justice B Veerappa, who visited Koppal district recently, has registered a suo motu complaint on the issue. Cases have been registered against Venkatesh Naganur, Commissioner; Somalingappa, Junior Engineer; Basavaraj Police Patil, Case Worker of the CMC and Assistant Executive Engineer of Nirmithi Kendra; Tahsildar at District Urban Development Cell.

Ablueprint of a total of 2,000 sites on 96 acres on Sindhogi and Hoovinala Roads has been prepared by the Nirmithi Kendra. Of which, except for 74 beneficiaries, the work order was issued on February 2, 2013,

Upa Lokayukta Justice B Veerappa visits under-construction houses in which plants and trees have grown

for the construction of houses for 1,926 beneficiaries. As per the work order, the total expenditure for the construction of each house was Rs 2.10 lakh, of which Rs 30,000 has to be borne by the beneficiary, Rs 75,000 was government aid, and the remaining Rs 1.05 lakh is to be a bank loan.

The total cost was Rs 42 crore, and only Rs 12 crore was released. Also, the bank has declined to release its component of Rs 1.05 lakh in view of the fact that the lands bearing Sy.Nos. 591/2, 592/2, 3, 4, 599/1, 2, 130/2, 1/2, 4, 5 and 16, which were used for the formation of sites, have not been converted. A total of Rs 12.69 crore was released so far, including Rs 9.69 crore by the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation and Rs 3 crore by the CMC, to Nirmithi Kendra for the construction of houses. Therefore, a total of 1,292 houses, which are under construction, have stood still as they are. Only the construction was completed for some houses, but windows and doors were not fitted; only walls were constructed for some houses. No construction started on the remaining 788 sites for a decade. Meanwhile, on April 28, 2022, title deeds were issued to the beneficiaries and those who requested the CMC to handover the sites or the houses as it is now to them. Despite all this, the Nirmithi Kendra is collecting Rs 2,000 each from each beneficiary as maintenance charges every year, and the beneficiaries and the locals complained to Upa Lokayukta.

CHILLY NIGHT IN CHENNAI

A man warms himself by a roadside bonfire in Chennai on Sunday as the city endures an unusual cold spell, a rare chill following recent weather disturbances that have pushed temperatures below typical seasonal norms | ASHWIN PRASATH

EXPRESS READ

TN farmers protest against Mekedatu

Thanjavur: Farmers owing allegiance to the Tamizhaga Vivasayigal Sangam on Sunday staged a protest in Thanjavur against the proposed Mekedatu dam across River Cauvery in Karnataka. The farmers raised slogans against the Karnataka government for trying to build a new dam across the Cauvery. They also demanded the state government to pursue the review petition filed against the Supreme Court's dismissal of Tamil Nadu's plea for returning the DPR sent by Karnataka to the Central Water Commission (CWC).

Himachal Guv offers prayers at Tirupati

Tirupati: Himachal Pradesh Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Sunday offered prayers at Lord Venkateswara Swamy temple in Tirumala. Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) officials received the Governor and later took him for darshan (visit deity). 'Shiv Pratap Shukla had darshan of Lord Venkateswara today. He was received by TTD officials and taken for darshan,' an official from the temple body said.

Cold wave to continue for two more days in TG

Hyderabad: Cold wave conditions are likely to prevail in parts of Telangana over the next two days, with minimum temperatures expected to dip 3ºC to 4ºC below normal in some areas, according to the Hyderabad Meteorological Centre. The forecast indicates dry weather across the state on December 22 and 23. Cold winds are likely on Monday in parts of north, west and central Telangana.

Physiotherapist rapes 20-yr-old woman in TN

Chennai: A 27-year-old physiotherapist was arrested on Sunday morning for allegedly drugging and raping a 20-year-old woman who was an intern at his private physiotherapy centre. The man took her to an apartment near Kolathur on Saturday under the pretext of an emergency case and allegedly raped the woman, police said. The Kolathur All Women Police identified the accused as Karthikeyan, and the survivor, a physiotherapy student at a private college.

No psychological support module for K'taka disaster responders: NIMHANS

RASHMI PATIL @Bengaluru

LENDING SUPPORT

In In the past one year, the department of Psychosocial Support in Disaster Management has trained people from health, education and other departments in Wayanad to help people who lost their loved ones in the 2024 landslides. They have also trained Odisha SDMA officials and National Disaster Response Force officials who were involved in the rescue operations in the Myanmar earthquake and foreign nationals from Fiji Island.

WHILE Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Union territory Delhi have approached the department of Psychosocial Support in Disaster Management at NIMHANS to train their first responders, the Karnataka State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) officials haven't gone to the premier institute to seek psychosocial support to their first responders, despite the centre situated in Bengaluru.

This shows a lack of community preparedness in the government to help people during natural disasters, said Dr Jayakumar C from the Department of Psychosocial support in Disaster Management at NIMHANS. He told *TNIE*, "Every year, Mangaluru, Uttara Kannada and other parts of the state face natural disasters like floods, landslides and drought that impact thousands of families. While the state government announces relief to the affected, there is no module or training provided to first responders in these areas on how to help people when they are traumatised by these incidents. Other states have done it and they are implementing it. But NIMHANS, despite being in Bengaluru, has not received any correspondence from KSDMA so far."

The faculty from the Psychosocial Support in Disaster Management faculty visited Odisha, which is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, to understand the needs of people working in SDRF teams.

Jayakumar said, "Soon after rescuing people during natural disasters, SDRF members are deployed on other duties. There is no time for them to recover or process mentally what happened in the disaster. We have prepared a module that can cater to the needs of SDRF officials, panchayat members, residents, teachers, doctors and trained people from all these departments to speak to any of the first responders to validate that what they have gone through is important; however, it is more important to return to normal in life."

Jayakumar said most of them grieve over losing their loved ones for two to six months and resume their routine, others still remain in the belief that their loved ones would come back one day. "They are in denial about the death. As a result, some remain traumatised, depressed, get addicted to drinking and smoking, leading to cognitive impairments and more," he added.

An official from the Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority said, "Currently, the department follows the norms framed by NDMA. But I agree there is a need to have a full-fledged training module to provide psychosocial support to first responders."

ECI to undertake SIR in TG soon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

THE Election Commission of India (ECI) will shortly undertake a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Telangana, a critical exercise aimed at ensuring that only eligible voters remain on the electoral rolls, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said on Sunday. Emphasising the pivotal role of Booth Level Officers (BLOs), he said Telangana would soon showcase to the rest of the country how a comprehensive and transparent roll revision should be conducted.

Addressing BLOs from across the state, the CEC said the upcoming SIR in Telangana would follow the model adopted in Bihar, which he described as a landmark success. He urged officials to replicate the same standards of accuracy, transparency and dedication. Once the roll purification exercise is completed, Telangana would enter a new era of electoral administration, he said, noting that the state is geographically larger than Canada.

'Early gestational diabetes detection key for safer pregnancies'

GAYATHRI M KURUP @ Bengaluru

Early gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) is emerging as a growing concern among pregnant women in India, with doctors warning that delayed detection can lead to serious complications for both mother and baby.

Traditionally screened between 24 and 28 weeks of pregnancy, diabetes is now increasingly being detected in the first trimester, a stage considered more critical. According to doctors, early GDM often goes unnoticed, especially when women seek care from general practitioners, alternative medicine systems, or public health centres where comprehensive glucose testing may not be routinely done. "Early diabetes is more dangerous because it affects the baby during organ formation," said Dr Varini N, senior consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, Milann Fertility Hospital, Bengaluru. She noted that while most tertiary and private hospitals screen women early, gaps remain, leading to missed diagnoses and preventable complications.

Backing these observations, a study by ICMR–INDIAB stated that nearly one in four pregnant women in India (22.4%) tested positive for gestational diabetes. Early GDM affected 19.2% of women, while late GDM was seen in 23.4%. The study, which included many states, including Karnataka, found no major difference between urban and rural areas. Central India reported the highest prevalence at 32.9%. High blood pressure and family history of diabetes were identified as key risk factors.

Dr Nisha Buchade, obstetrician and gynaecologist, Vasavi Hospitals, said the guidelines framed two decades ago focused on late pregnancy because diabetes was believed to peak around 28 weeks. "Women now marry and conceive later, often in their 30s, with sedentary lifestyles, obesity, PCOS, and high-carb diets increasing risk. Nearly 20–30% of GDM now develops

in the first trimester," she said.

Dr Buchade said uncontrolled sugars early in pregnancy can cause miscarriages, neural tube defects, heart abnormalities, preeclampsia, large babies, and even intrauterine death. "High sugars cross the placenta and overstimulate the baby's pancreas, leading to serious complications before and after birth," she added. Dr Mridula Devi A, consultant, obstetrics and gynaecology, Aster RV Hospital, said early GDM screening is still inconsistent in all hospitals.

She said this underscores the need for government intervention through uniform screening guidelines and better training of frontline healthcare workers. With rising maternal age and lifestyle-related risks, she said early detection of GDM should become a standard part of antenatal care to prevent avoidable complications for mother and child. "Early detection means healthier mothers, safer pregnancies, and better outcomes for babies," she said, calling for updated government guidelines and wider awareness across.

Chennai firm CEO, Ballari jeweller played key role in Sabari gold theft

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ T'Puram

PANKAJ Bhandari, chief executive officer of Chennai-based Smart Creations, and Govardhan, a Ballari-based jeweller, had a key role in Sabarimala gold theft case and their involvement was revealed by the key accused Unnikrishnan Potti, the remand report said.

The remand report filed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) before the Kollam Vigilance court said evidence revealing the involvement of the duo in the subterfuge were accessed during the course of the probe. The two aided in the gold theft and later tried to mask the offences committed by the main accused by giving false testimony.

The two were arrested by the SIT on Friday after questioning them for hours, which revealed that the gold theft had an interstate link. The SIT had earlier recovered about 400 g of gold from the Ballari jewellery, which they said was part of the booty. The SIT's suspect that the rest of the stolen gold might have been sold for a high price on account of its religious value, the sources added. So far the SIT has arrested nine persons in connection with two cases registered for gold theft.

EDITORIAL

"You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them — Maya Angelou

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.
— Ramnath Goenka

CHAOS ROILS DHAKA AHEAD OF ELECTIONS: INDIA IS CONCERNED

BANGLADESH is approaching its February 12 parliamentary elections amid growing instability, highlighting the fragility of the interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus. This has raised significant concerns in New Delhi regarding security, extremism and regional stability. An expected stabilising transition following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina in August 2024 has instead resulted in recurring violence, political paralysis and rising anti-India sentiment. Once projected as a regional success story, the country is now experiencing its most volatile period since last year's student-led uprising.

The immediate cause of the unrest was the death of Sharif Osman Hadi, a prominent youth leader of the July movement and a candidate in the upcoming elections. Violent protests in Dhaka and other cities followed his death, with attacks on media outlets, public infrastructure and Indian diplomatic premises. The interim government declared a day of mourning and urged citizens to resist 'mob violence by fringe elements', but that has not reassured the public about its ability to maintain order. The crisis has exposed the limitations of Yunus's administration, which has struggled to manage rival political groups, Islamist hardliners and street mobilisation. The Awami League, excluded from the elections, has threatened to continue its protests, raising concerns that the electoral process may be disrupted.

For India, the implications are immediate and significant. Protesters attacked the Indian Assistant High Commission in Chattogram, and visa centres in Rajshahi and Khulna were closed. Anti-India slogans and graffiti are now more frequent. Since Hasina's departure to New Delhi, India has become a political target, with some protest groups framing the unrest as resistance to 'Indian hegemony'.

New Delhi is increasingly concerned about the rising extremist narratives and deteriorating security for religious minorities. Recent communal violence has direct implications for India's border security. Strategically, India faces heightened competition from China and Pakistan. Beijing has increased engagement with all segments of Bangladesh's political landscape, including Islamist groups. India, meanwhile, maintains formal relations with the interim government and has reiterated its support for a 'democratic, stable, peaceful and inclusive Bangladesh'. Efforts to advance connectivity and energy cooperation, such as power transmission from Nepal through India, continue. However, people-to-people relations are weakening, and goodwill is declining. The unresolved issue of Sheikh Hasina's stay in India adds further diplomatic complexity. The outcome of the February elections will have lasting effects on India's security and regional interests.

A BETTER SESSION, BUT LAW MAKING RUSHED

THE just-ended session of Parliament was reasonably productive and suggested a measure of maturity among elected representatives, especially after the near washout of the previous monsoon sitting. While tempers ran high on both sides, there was a noticeable willingness from the Chair and the treasury benches to accommodate differing views—a quality conspicuously absent earlier. Last session, the Opposition's demand for a debate on the Election Commission's special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar had been flatly rejected, triggering repeated disruptions. This time, however, the government agreed to recast the issue as a wider discussion on electoral reforms. That semantic adjustment created space to raise concerns over SIR and alleged vote manipulation. The government, for its part, held firm on sequencing—insisting first on a debate marking 150 years of *Vande Mataram* before turning to electoral issues. The Opposition gave way, resulting in a mutually acceptable compromise.

A closer look, however, reveals that over 40 per cent of the already brief session—just 19 days with 15 sittings—was devoted to non-legislative discussions. Even so, the passage of eight Bills, several of them significant, was no small feat. These included legislation to replace the two-decade-old MGNREGA framework, open the civil nuclear sector to private participation, and permit 100 per cent FDI in insurance. Yet many of these Bills were pushed through within a couple of days of being introduced, some amid protests and high drama, with repeated demands for committee scrutiny brushed aside. This has prompted observers to question whether legislative efficiency is more desirable than the depth and quality of debate. The handling of the VB-G Ram G Bill illustrates the concern: the Rajya Sabha took it up just hours after the Lok Sabha passed it on the penultimate day, denying the Opposition additional time for examination.

Overall, the Opposition appeared to recognise a shift in tone by attending the Speaker's customary post-session tea—a gesture it had shunned since the 2024 monsoon session, citing lack of opportunity to speak. That said, a proposed debate on pollution was dropped, with the ruling side citing the Congress's conduct in the Lok Sabha. And on a different note, is it unreasonable to expect senior political leaders to remain in the country—and present in Parliament—while the House is in session?

QUICK TAKE

MYTH OF DISORDER

HUMANITARIAN leaders like Jan Egeland call today's conflicts a "new world disorder", saying global rules have broken down and violence against civilians is becoming normal. Some agree, pointing to the ongoing Sudan war. But what's called a "new world disorder" is really old patterns becoming more visible. Powerful countries always bent the rules. They always enforced the rules system unevenly. The difference is that it's harder to ignore the unfairness today. The system hasn't collapsed; we see its weaknesses more clearly. Sudan is not tomorrow's future. It is the latest example of what happens when problems are consistently ignored. Disorder seems new because our expectations are changing, not because rules have vanished.

Presidents have long pressured central banks. Independence is recent. Low growth & high debt weaken monetary power. Inequality feeds populism, and unelected bankers now face sustained political attack

CENTRAL BANKS, INFLATION AND POLITICAL CONTROL

SATYAJIT DAS
Former banker and author

THE spat between the White House and Fed Reserve Chairperson Jerome Powell, an appointee of US President Donald Trump, is hardly unusual. Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon bullied the central bank into lowering interest rates.

Central banks function as the government's banker, issue currency, maintain the payment system, and manage the nation's currency reserves. They safeguard financial stability, acting as a lender of last resort to banks, although separate bodies sometimes regulate the financial system. The contentious part of their mandate is controlling the money supply and setting interest rates.

Central bank independence is recent. In 1990, New Zealand legislated inflation targeting, which other nations adopted. The concept was that an independent institution would determine monetary policy and maintain price stability, minimising opportunities for politicians to use interest rates to boost economic activity, especially around elections. The context was the high inflation era of the 1970s and 1980s. It was convenient to transfer painful choices to central bankers, allowing governments to blame others or claim credit depending on the outcomes.

The case for independence is unclear. The objectives, such as relative price stability, growth and employment, are frequently contradictory. It is unclear which of the multiple measures of price levels should be prioritised. The 2-3 percent inflation objective is arbitrary. Empirical studies suggest that fear of deflation may be unwarranted. There are differences in what constitutes full employment. Data, rarely timely, has methodological problems. The representativeness of items used to measure inflation is contested. Unpaid work, zero-hour agreements, and contracting complicate labour statistics. Resource scarcity or sustainability is ignored.

Central banks have limited tools—interest rates, regulating the money supply through open-market operations, quantitative easing (buying government debt) and forward guidance (open-mouth operations or jawboning). Budgets, the currency, international capital flows, and geopolitics (sanctions, trade restrictions) are outside its control.

The underlying economic models focus on NAIRU (non-accelerating inflation rate of unemployment) or the Phillips Curve, a simplistic trade-off between unemployment and inflation. In practice, these relationships are unreliable. Cause and effect are difficult to differentiate. There is no agreement on a neutral (not contractionary or expansionary) interest rate. Central bankers constantly validate Laurence J Peter's judgment: "An economist is an expert who will know tomorrow why the things he predicted yesterday didn't happen today."

SOURAV ROY

The problems are compounded by training and backgrounds that foster groupthink. Central bankers are economists, usually trained at the same universities, who spend their working lives within institutions, government, or academe, with limited commercial experience. Central banks are run by economists providing employment for their tribe. Independent members rarely second-guess staff recommendations, even if they have the expertise and information.

Originally reticent, central banks, following the lead of former Fed Chairperson Alan 'Maestro' Greenspan, have embraced celebrity. Inscrutable invisibility has given way to volubility, X handles, and Delphic oratory. They play to financial markets with an excessive focus on asset prices, which do not uniformly benefit all citizens. Politicians, never happy to share the limelight, increasingly resent the power and public profile of these unelected technocrats. They begrudge having to seek approbation for their policies. American presidents found themselves forced to kowtow to the all-powerful Greenspan. They are wary of the threat that central banks may pose to their position and re-election.

Central banks' records are unconvincing. The Great Moderation of the 1990s and early 2000s, for which central bankers unashamedly claimed credit, was driven by lower rates, the result of Paul A Volcker using punitive rates with high human cost to bring down inflation, as well as the entry of China, India, and Russia into the global trading system and the growth of information technology.

After the shocks of 2000 and 2008, hubristic central bankers used public money to rescue the system without addressing root causes. After 2020, they grossly misread price pressures regarding them as supposedly 'transitory'. They have persistently ignored the side effects of their policies, such as asset price inflation, rising debt levels, capital allocation distortions, financing government, and social issues like inequality and housing affordability.

The current environment is different, characterised by low growth, slackening trade, challenges to free capital flows, and geopolitical uncertainty. Interest rates are less effective in boosting economic activity. Inflation is less responsive to economic slack. Government borrowing in the aftermath of the crashes and the pandemic has created unsustainably high public debt and ongoing interest expenses, which are unlikely to abate given aging populations, rising welfare costs and tax cuts.

Given his sharp political instincts, Trump senses an opportunity to undermine central bank authority, if only by appointing voting Fed governors who favour his goal of short-term rates as low as 1 percent. Rather than institutional reform, the motivation is furtherance of financial repression to disguise sovereign insolvency and maintain artificially high stock and property prices.

Lower rates would allow profligate governments to continue, with tax cuts and higher spending in sectors like defence and national security that favour the government's business constituents. Negative real rates and self-fulfilling inflationary expectations allow the government to inflate away its rising debts and devalue the currency to improve competitiveness. The policy entails transferring wealth from domestic and overseas savers to borrowers. Treasury secretary Scott Bessent has suggested that the US will *de facto* use foreign wealth to rebuild American industry and employment through policies forcing foreigners to invest in US industries as directed by the Administration, while at the same time reducing the value of overseas investors' holdings by weakening the dollar or worse.

Framed by the Administration's critics around central bank independence, the opposition to Trump's agenda has little to do with the subject. The governing classes' concern is the realisation that the Federal Reserve is now one of the few remaining institutions that offer any check on presidential power, given the weakening of Congress, the public sector and the judiciary.

(Views are personal)

CAROLS ACROSS FAITH

RENUKA NARAYANAN
FAITHLINE

HAPPY Christmas in advance, dear readers. For someone trapped in the English language as I was in my formative years, the Bible contained wonderful calls to faith, such as, 'For God is not a God of confusion but of peace', Corinthians 14:33. I also loved what Jesus said in Matthew 11:30, 'For my yoke is easy and my burden is light', which is the concluding part of a passage where Jesus invited those who were weary and burdened to come to him for rest.

I felt such verses applied to me, too, as a Hindu, and they reinforced my own, then mute, attachment to Sanatana Dharma. At that stage, I used the Bible to light my path to my own home as a Hindu, realising that Hindus didn't have one holy book; they had a library. Except that our books were somehow inaccessible when I was growing up, whereas the Bible came so easily to me in English, satisfying my inchoate inner yearning for a God-connection.

While I knew I would stay loyal to my Hindu identity, I also felt, "What's not to love about Jesus?" As a little girl, I wept reading about the Stations of the Cross, and fiercely wished that I could have given Jesus a drink of water on his last, sorrowful journey. It still affects me deeply. When I grew older, I became greatly attached to four books in the Old Testament. They were *Ecclesiastes*, *Psalms*, *Proverbs* and *The Song of Solomon*. Ecclesiastes seemed like an Upanishad to me in its wisdom. *Psalms* were raw emotion and deep faith. *Proverbs* gave me social and emotional direction while *The Song of Solomon* seemed like Jayadeva's lyrical *Gita Govindam* in its intense bhakti *bhava*.

However, I was uncomfortable with conversion agendas. I realised, reading about the mediaeval Church's violent history, that Christ and Christianity were not always the same. And it seemed rude in modern India to be told, "My faith is better than yours, leave yours, join mine." My quiet response was, "I find meaning and beauty in my faith. May I not peacefully continue being 'myself' while respecting and appreciating your faith as a parallel path to God? Ecclesiastes 1:7 says, 'All the rivers run into the sea'." Because I celebrate Christmas every year and I regularly went to Midnight Mass with Christian friends until they themselves stopped, to sing the carols and hymns I learned as a child.

Regarding this, let me tell you a little story about a Christmas party in Chennai. It was at the home of the Hindu friends with whom I usually stay when in town. He is from North India, and she is from the South. They are a sweet, open-minded couple who celebrate both Diwali and Christmas, as many Hindus do across India. As I said, what's not to love about Jesus, who preached 'God is Love'? For one, it resonates with '*Anbe Sivam*', which means 'Love is God' in Tamil.

AFP

> As a Hindu, Biblical verses reinforced my own attachment to Sanatana Dharma. I used the Bible to light my path to my own home as a Hindu, realising that Hindus didn't have one holy book; they have a library. This, excitingly, also made Christmas carols and hymns a part of my unforgotten personal storehouse of songs

Anyhow, not only do my friends unfailingly put up a Christmas tree at home, but they also invite a close circle of friends to a Christmas party, with all the traditional treats that mark the festival, especially plum cake. That year, their friends included several Christians, some nice, open-minded Muslims and me. The host couple and I chanced to be the only Hindus.

One of the Christian guests had brought printouts of carols so that everyone could sing together. We all had liberal, urban upbringings, and those who were unfamiliar with carols could at least look at the words. Then, we came to the great old carol '*We three kings of Orient are*'. But a verse was missing from the printout. Guess which two people knew that verse by heart and sang it while the others, even the Christians, fell silent because they didn't know? My Hindu hostess and I, that's who. In fact, we were the only two singing every carol from memory without glancing even once at the printouts. This is not to imply that we were extra clever. It's just that for both of us, carols and hymns were part of our unforgotten personal storehouse of songs.

I should probably also share what my father did in New York in the nineties while visiting my sister. My mother's *shraadh* date occurred then. My father, though a *naastik* for the most part, observed her death anniversary with the traditional puja. But he didn't like to trouble my deracinated sister to find a pujari in a foreign land.

Instead, he went to St Patrick's Church, knelt in a back pew, and murmured from the beautiful Twenty-third Psalm, which begins, 'The Lord is my Shepherd'. When he told me about it, I thought he'd done well, for a personal prayer is a genuine thing. I loved St Patrick's myself, and made a beeline for the shrine of St Jude, the patron saint of lost or desperate causes. He symbolised hope and perseverance through difficult times, and I liked what he stood for. My prayer as I lit a candle and knelt to him was the universal wish, "*Sarve jana sukhino bhavantu, ma kaschid dukh bhag bhavet*", meaning, 'May everyone be well, may no one suffer.'

In that spirit, I would like to share these encouraging thoughts from the Bible. From Hebrews 11.1, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." And from Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me", meaning faith can steady us through every storm.

(Views are personal)
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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Renaming history

Ref: *Nehru vs Modi: Ghost or glory?* (Dec 21). The renaming exercise does not put forward the right precedence. The future generations to come would be greeted with a highly distorted and politicised history. It seems like a balancing act for the Centre's moral bankruptcy.
A Sreeramarao, Vishakhapatnam

India's roots

Ref: *The Republic, carefully edited* (Dec 21). The excellent column jingled my ninety-year-old memories of those who laid the foundations of the Republic and nurtured it to the extent that the whole democratic world was once envious of our Constitution and the values enumerated in it. I feel sorry for the generations that followed in the later years of independent India and grew into the 'banana republic' we encounter today.
Rajan Ugra, Bengaluru

Eroding democracy

The vast majority of Indians, including the youth, seem no longer conscious of how the Republic is being carefully trimmed to suit narratives. While it's easy to blame those in power, rulers everywhere tend to follow similar patterns when citizens remain blind and deaf to democratic erosion.
Jagan Nadham, Vizianagaram

Boost exports

Ref: *Pressure on rupee to continue* (Dec 20). There should be no further delay in securing a trade deal with the US and foreign institutional investors' withdrawal. The editorial is spot on about higher import demand for the dollar amid the tariff fiasco. An export boost is needed more than ever.
V K S Krishnan, Thanjavur

Eternal laughs

Ref: *Malayalam actor, screenwriter and filmmaker Sreenivasan dies at 69* (Dec 21). It is an irreparable loss to Malayalam cinema. Over four decades of acting, he had exemplified that the only thing worth having an existence is with a sense of humour. May his humour endure and waft!
Kelath Gopakumar Menon, Thrissur

Bumrah's role

Ref: *The chosen ones* (Dec 21). The squad appears to be very strong and balanced. The omission of Shubman Gill, though surprising, seems imperative. There was a well-deserved spot for Yashasvi Jaiswal in the team, given his starry performance in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2025. Jasprit Bumrah, however, would have made a better captain choice.
A V Vara Prasad, email

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POSTS OF THE DAY

K C Venugopal @kcvenugopalmp
This serious assault on the right to work will be also discussed at the CWC meeting on 27 December, where the party will deliberate and decide the future course of action.

Prakash Ambedkar @Prksh_Ambedkar
Delhi should make every effort for a smarter diplomacy with Bangladesh. And, Modi should cease his Manuwaadi politics and engage in cultural and political inclusion in the Northeast.

Amit Malviya @amitmalviya
Artists, citizens, and believers should not fear expressing their faith. Selective secularism and religious bullying have no place in Bengal or in India.

SHANTI'S VISION: TRANSFORMING ENERGY INTO STRENGTH

OPINION

JITENDRA SINGH
Union Minister of State, PMO, and Earth Sciences, Science & Technology (Independent Charge)

WHEN the monsoon first touches the Deccan, a million tiny rivulets knit themselves into rivers. It is not a thunderclap that turns water into force; it is patient joining—stream to stream, village to village—until the flow is confident enough to light a city. India's journey with the atom has felt like that: quiet channels of science converging over decades, now gathering into a river strong enough to power a data centre at midnight, sterilise a meal in the afternoon, and help a clinician save a child by the evening.

With the introduction of the SHANTI Bill—Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Bill, 2025—we are shaping the riverbed so that this flow reaches every home, industry and institution that needs dependable and clean energy.

To understand why this moment matters, we must begin with the context.

Before 2014, India's nuclear framework was anchored in two separate statutes: the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, which guided development and control, and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, which provided a no-fault compensation regime. Each served its time; each also reflected an era when nuclear capability was primarily a sovereign effort, with very limited pathways for the broader ecosystem—manufacturing, finance, insurance, startups, and advanced research—to participate.

SHANTI draws them together, repealing and replacing them with a single, modern architecture—in one stroke conferring statutory status the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), defining roles and responsibilities with clarity, and opening responsible avenues for public-private participation while reserving sensitive functions to the government.

In the past decade, India has achieved self-reliance across the nuclear fuel cycle and carried the programme responsibly. Now we are ready to scale towards a national goal of 100 gigawatt of nuclear capacity by 2047, adding reliable baseload power to support AI, quantum computing, indigenous semiconductor fabrication, and large-scale data research.

The Bill codifies this readiness: it creates a unified licensing and safety authorisation regime. It sets graded liability for operators—₹3,000 crore for the largest reactors, down to ₹100 crore for smaller ones and fuel-cycle facilities—so that innovation such as small and modular reactors (SMRs) can proceed with proportionate safeguards. It also establishes a Nuclear Liability Fund for situations where compensation exceeds the operator's cap and provides recourse to the international Convention on Supplementary Compensation—because compassion must be as scalable as technology.

Change, in the most meaningful sense, is what the ordinary citizen can feel. In healthcare, nuclear medicine has moved from promise to practice: targeted therapies for childhood blood cancers and prostate malignancies now flow from centres such as Tata Memorial, turning isotopes into healing. In agriculture, radiation technologies already help preserve produce, extend shelf life, and ensure safety.

The SHANTI Bill confers statutory status on the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and opens avenues for public-private participation. Small modular reactors can supply reliable power for healthcare and businesses. The new redress mechanism avoids clogging civil courts.

Safety is not a slogan; it is a discipline with numbers and routines. India's operating plants are inspected every three months during construction and every six months in operation; licences are renewed every five years; the International Atomic Energy Agency benchmarks our parameters, and the AERB's statutory status now gives it sharper teeth.

What changes, then, in the citizen's daily life? First, power you can trust—24×7 and low-carbon, not hostage to the weather. When a textile cluster adds an SMR to its energy mix, it stabilises looms and livelihoods; when a district hospital relies on uninterrupted power for imaging, radiotherapy, and digital records, a patient's anxiety is reduced to the one thing no law can cure—waiting time. SHANTI's graded liability regime reduces barriers for smaller investors to build such plants while maintaining strict responsibility, and its unified rules simplify the journey from design to operation.

Second, better redress when things go wrong. The Bill creates an Atomic Energy Redressal Advisory Council—comprised of the AEC chairperson, BARC director, AERB chairperson and CEA chairperson—to hear review applications and facilitate conciliation with technical depth. It designates claims commissioners within 30 days of a notified incident to adjudicate compensation swiftly, and empowers the government to constitute a Nuclear Damage Claims Commission for severe cases with quasi-judicial powers modelled on civil courts. This is justice engineered for emergencies.

Third, a transparent ecosystem. Restricted information provisions protect sensitive data without choking legitimate public outreach on safety. The government retains exclusive control of enrichment, reprocessing of spent fuel, heavy-water production, and isotopic separations—so long-term stewardship remains a sovereign function. Research, design and innovation are exempted from licensing (with safety and national-security caveats), so startups and universities can explore prototypes, sensors, AI-enabled monitoring, and advanced materials.

Alongside SHANTI, we have announced missions for SMRs with ₹20,000 crore earmarked, and a ₹1 lakh crore research, development and innovation fund to catalyse private sector across domains. Nuclear energy will not be a solitary silo; it will be a node in India's wider innovation surge.

Some worry about liability and courts—SHANTI is explicit on this. The operator carries the liability with caps graded by installation, backed by mandatory insurance or financial security; beyond the cap, the Nuclear Liability Fund and, if needed, international supplementary compensation pool can be tapped. Civil courts will not be clogged with technical claims; a specialised redress commission will adjudicate, with appeals routed to the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (augmented with nuclear technical members) and, ultimately, to the Supreme Court.

Rivers do not argue their way to the sea; they find it. With SHANTI, India's nuclear river has found its course—safe, sovereign and generous enough to carry every citizen with it.

(Views are personal)

Crew shortage likely to hurt freight corridor operations

No. of loco pilots & guards below strength: Rlys to Parliament panel

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Standing Committee on Railways has warned that the objective of fully electrified dedicated freight corridors with exclusive high-capacity tracks could be undermined unless operational constraints, particularly crew shortages, are addressed without delay.

The committee, in its sixth report on 'Increasing freight-related earnings of Indian Railways and development of dedicated freight corridors', presented to the Lok Sabha recently, examined aspects of freight operations, including challenges and proposed measures for improvement.

The committee's comments came after the Ministry of Railways acknowledged that "the biggest challenge faced by the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCCIL) in running trains is the availability of crew." In a submission to the committee, the ministry provided details regarding the number of employees involved in train operations as of June 1, 2025. According to the ministry, out of a sanctioned strength of 1,42,814 loco pilots, the actual strength stands at 1,07,928.

Similarly, for goods train managers (guards), out of 22,082 sanctioned posts, only 12,345 are currently filled. The total sanctioned strength for all categories, including station masters and station superintendents, is 2,06,495, but the actual number of working employees is 1,59,219.

"The committee emphasises that the shortage of crew must be resolved urgently to minimise delays, improve throughout, and ensure uninterrupted freight movement across the DFC network," the report stated. The committee further urged Indian Railways to take effective measures to ensure the availability of adequate crew.

Citing official data, the report noted that freight services account for around 65% of Railways' total earnings, while the remaining 35% comes from passenger services, parcel services, and non-fare revenue streams. It further pointed out that structural limitations within rail logistics continue to restrict the growth potential of freight revenue.

'Undertake annual review of freight rates'

The committee advised the ministry to undertake an annual comprehensive review of freight rates, factoring in commodity-wise competitiveness, prevailing market demand, and operational costs. On initiatives aimed at revenue growth, it encouraged Railways to explore additional avenues for boosting non-fare income, specifically suggesting that advertising on rail coaches and wagons be pursued as a sustainable revenue-generating option.

'No breach at B'desh High Commission': MEA rejects protest rumours

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA on Sunday rejected what it described as "misleading propaganda" in sections of the Bangladeshi media about a small protest outside the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, and said that there was no breach of security or threat to the diplomatic mission.

External Affairs Ministry said a limited number of protesters had gathered briefly outside the High Commission to express anger over the killing of Dipu Chandra Das in Bangladesh's Mymensingh district and to demand protection for minorities there.

Responding to media queries, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "We have noted misleading propaganda in sections of the Bangladesh media on the incident. The fact is that about 20–25 youth gathered in front of the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi on 20 December and raised slogans in protest over the horrendous killing of Dipu Chandra Das in Mymensingh, while also calling for the protection of all minorities in Bangladesh."

He categorically denied reports suggesting an attempt to storm the premises. "There was no attempt to breach the fence or create a security situation at any time. The police stationed at the spot dispersed the group after a few minutes. Visual evidence of these events is available publicly for all to see," Jaiswal said, and added that India remains committed to ensuring the safety of foreign missions in line with the Vienna Convention.

The clarification comes amid heightened tensions following the death of Sharif Osman Hadi, a prominent student leader and spokesperson of Inqilab Mancha, whose killing earlier this month triggered widespread unrest in Bangladesh. Indian authorities said they are closely monitoring developments in Bangladesh.

There was no attempt to breach the fence or create a security situation at any time. The police stationed at the spot dispersed the group after a few minutes. Visual evidence is available publicly for all to see

Randhir Jaiswal, MEA spokesperson

INSIDER TRACK

Rahul in Munich, disquiet in Delhi

Congress may be leading the charge against the G-RAM-G Bill, but Rahul Gandhi's no-show during the Lok Sabha debate has left party corridors buzzing — and not in a good way. With the Leader of the Opposition in Germany, visuals of him inspecting BMW cars and bikes in Munich on the very day of the debate sharpened the unease. The BJP predictably pounced on the optics, but the piercing murmurs were within the INDIA bloc itself. Allies and Congress leaders privately felt that Rahul should have anchored the resistance against what they see as the dismantling of a UPA-era flagship law. The debate lacked punch, admitted one insider, pointing to the contrast with the Rajya Sabha, where Mallikarjun Kharge led a far more muscular Opposition attack.

The hunted teaches the hunter

Probationer IPS officers at Hyderabad's SVPNPA were in for an unexpected reality check when the Academy hosted a surprise guest — surrendered Maoist leader Pulluri Prasada Rao, better known as Chandranna. A central committee member until his surrender on October 28, Chandranna turned a routine Left-Wing Extremism module into an intense, no-holds-barred dialogue. Trainees grilled him on questions they had only seen in manuals — funding networks, forest logistics, cadre movement and survival strategies. Chandranna answered candidly, laying bare the Maoist organisational spine. One remark lingered long after the session ended. "Maoists never targeted police officials who were upright and stood for the cause of the people," he told them. A source said the words "hit the minds of young officers" — six weeks after Chandranna laid down arms.

Nitin Nabin's 'dahi-chura' moment

The joke doing the rounds in BJP circles says it all — "Bihar in BJP or BJP in Bihar?" Ever since five-time Patna MLA Nitin Nabin was named Working National President, the party headquarters has worn a distinctly Bihari flavour. When Nabin arrived to take charge, it wasn't luggage but dahi-chura and makhana-kheer that stole the show, served generously to workers and media alike. BJP beat reporters, often grumbling about access, were seen happily digging in. "At least with Nitin ji, dahi-chura se hamara bhi swagat hua," quipped a journalist. The symbolism peaked when Amit Shah, accompanied by Dharmendra Pradhan, stood to receive Nabin. "Esi ko bhag kahte hain," smiled workers, spotting fate — and hope — at play.

Ram ji then, G-RAM-G now

For decades, the BJP's most potent mobilisation cry was "Ram Ji". Now, party strategists are dusting off that playbook for a new acronym — "G-RAM-G". As Opposition protests intensify over the alleged dilution of MGNREGA, the BJP is preparing a nationwide outreach to sell its revamped rural employment scheme. Party sources say the focus will be on explaining amendments and countering what they call Congress-spread "misinformation". "If not clarified at once, fake messages can cause electoral disasters," warned a senior BJP leader. With Congress planning mass protests over what it calls the "ending" of a Mahatma Gandhi-named law, the saffron party wants to flip the narrative — insisting G-RAM-G strengthens, not weakens, rural livelihoods. After January 14, insiders say, the campaign may mirror the sustained Ram temple mobilisation — development replacing devotion.

Aravallis safe from mining push, 100m definition to cover 90% hills: Centre

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, has rejected reports claiming that mining is being promoted in major parts of the Aravalli Hills following a Supreme Court order. He said that the top court's decision will protect over 90% of the Aravalli region.

The minister was interacting with reporters at the Sundarban Tiger Reserve in West Bengal after chairing a meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority. He explained that the SC-approved definition of Aravalli Hills will classify more than 90% of the area as a "protected zone."

The Centre announced a freeze on new mining leases in the region as mandated by the SC. This is part of a framework established by the court to provide stronger protections for the mountain system and to ensure that no new leases are granted until a comprehensive management plan is finalised.

Amidst controversy surrounding the "100-metre" criterion, the government said that the definition of the Aravalli hills and ranges has been standardised across states under the SC's direction. This standardisation aims to eliminate ambiguity and prevent the misuse of practices that allowed mining to occur close to the bases of the hills.

In response to cases of illegal mining in the Aravallis, the court constituted a committee in May 2024 to recommend a "uniform definition" since different states had been using inconsistent criteria for granting mining permissions, according to news reports.

Chaired by the Environment Ministry Secretary and comprising representatives from Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat, and Delhi, along with technical experts, the panel found that only Rajasthan had an officially established definition.

IAF defence shield revamp to intercept beyond visual range

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE Indian Air Force is working towards the "upgradation and modernisation" of its Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) which served as the "nerve centre" during Operation Sindoor.

The IACCS is undergoing the third phase of its up-gradation and modernisation, a source said. "It is to cater to Long Range vectors, Network centricity and Precision Strike with a focus on the Beyond Visual Range capability".

According to sources, the IACCS played a central role in both offensive and defence, with the third phase of upgradations improving its capabilities. What adds to the new phase is that now there are nodes with threat evaluation modules which will prioritise threats based on information/profile targets. A stand off weapon launch detection system is already in place.

Standoff launch is the tactic adopted to launch an attack keeping a safe distance from the counter. This will improve the capability to counter enemies using appropriate weapons and systems, sources added.

IACCS was the pioneering Command and Control System of the IAF envisaged in 1995 post the Purulia arms dropping incident, where illegal arms were dropped using an aircraft. This was included as part of the IAF's first Air Power Doctrinal manual issued around the year 2000, and revised in 2022.

While the IAF inducted Drones and Loiter Munitions to destroy enemy air defences, the IACCS envisioned a system to detect them and keep the ground commanders informed, said sources. The IACCS has also incorporated the Software Defined Radios (SDRs) for secure voice data communication.

"The current physical and network architecture was originally planned to accommodate future technological requirements. This has made upgradations, which cater to redundancies, an easier process," said sources. The IACCS already caters to the integration of Akashtir and Trigun systems. Akashtir is the Indian Army's Air Defence Control and Reporting System and Trigun is the Indian Navy's Maritime Domain Awareness System. The defence ministry has decided to observe 2025 as the 'Year of Reforms'.

Upgraded system to have threat evaluation modules

The IACCS played a central role in both offensive and air defence with the third phase of upgradations improving its capabilities. What adds to the new phase is that now we have nodes of IACCS with threat evaluation modules which will prioritise threats based on information/profile targets, said sources.

SHOT IN THE LEG
A man held for allegedly raping a four-year-old girl sustained a leg injury after a woman police inspector shot at him when he tried to flee during the crime reconstruction process in Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

2 KILLED AS FOG CAUSES TRUCK-BIKE COLLISION IN UP'S BAREILLY

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	30	17	Mumbai	30	23
Bhopal	25	11	Panaji	32	19
Jaipur	27	12	Patna	22	12
Amritsar	21	09	Lucknow	21	10
Chennai	28	22	Port Blair	29	24
Kolkata	26	17	Imphal	23	09
Srinagar	09	-1	Chandigarh	22	10

PM says Oppn resisting SIR as it wants to settle migrants in state ● RSS chief says issue slowly coming to end but division is being engineered

Cong likes illegal B'deshis more than people of Assam: Modi in Dibrugarh

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

CONTINUING his attack on the Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday accused the party of settling and protecting illegal Bangladeshi migrants. He concluded his two-day visit to Assam during which he launched projects worth ₹15,600 crore, interacted with students and BJP workers, paid homage to martyrs, and targeted the Congress on multiple issues, setting the stage for the 2026 assembly polls in the state.

"The Congress has no concern for Assam, its people, or their identity. The Congress likes illegal Bangladeshi migrants more. It had settled them and are protecting them. This is the reason why the Congress is opposing the ongoing exercise to correct voters' list," the PM said, addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone for a ₹10,601 crore brownfield ammonia-urea plant in Dibrugarh. He said the Congress even now wants to settle Bangladeshis on Assam's lands and forests to consolidate its vote bank. "You get destroyed in the process but the Congress is not bothered."

Insisting that Assam has to be protected from the "poison" of appeasement and vote-bank politics, Modi assured people that the BJP was standing solidly with them to protect Assam's identity and honour. He said the BJP prioritises every work that enhances Assam's prestige but when any such work is undertaken, it causes the greatest discomfort to the Congress. "When our government conferred the Bharat Ratna on Bhupen da (legendary singer-songwriter Bhupen Hazarika), the Congress openly opposed it. The Congress again opposed when a semiconductor unit was established in Assam," Modi said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an address at Namrup in Assam's Dibrugarh | PTI

He slammed the Congress for denying land rights to Assam's tea garden community despite being in power for decades. He said the BJP government gave them land rights as well as a dignified life.

The Assam Valley Fertiliser and Chemical Company Ltd at Namrup will have an annual urea production capacity of 12.7 lakh metric tonnes. The project is scheduled for commissioning in 2030. Modi said the long-awaited dream of Namrup and Dibrugarh had been fulfilled, as a new chapter of industrial progress began in the region. He said India produced 225 lakh metric tonnes of urea in 2014, whereas production today reached 306 lakh MT. He said the country requires 380 lakh MT of urea annually and the government is working to bridge this gap.

Modi began the day by interacting with 25 students during a 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme aboard the three-storey cruise ship 'MV Charaidew 2' sailing on the Brahmaputra. He spent 45 minutes answering students' questions on academics, personal development, and career aspirations. The PM's next stop was at the 'Swahid Smarak Kshetra' in Guwahati where he paid homage to martyrs of the Assam Agitation, a movement against illegal immigrants. He then left for Dibrugarh and later Namrup.

'Cong denied land rights to tea garden community'

Insisting that Assam has to be protected from the "poison" of appeasement and vote-bank politics, Modi assured people that the BJP was standing with them to protect the state's identity. He said, "The BJP prioritises work that enhances Assam's prestige but when any such work is undertaken, it causes discomfort to the Congress." He slammed the Congress for denying land rights to Assam's tea garden community

Talk of building Babri again not in Muslim or Hindu interest: Bhagwat

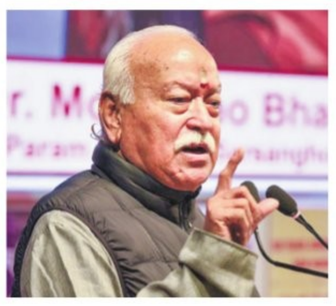
RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday described the new controversy in West Bengal over the use of the term 'Babri Masjid' as a "political plot" aimed at reigniting an old dispute for electoral gains.

"Building a Babri Masjid again and restarting the dispute is a political conspiracy for votes. This is neither in the interest of Muslims nor of Hindus. The dispute was gradually coming to an end and a healthy sense of goodwill was developing, but now efforts are being made to widen the divide again," Bhagwat told the media in Kolkata on the sidelines of the RSS' centenary celebrations.

The controversy erupted after the foundation of a structure, named Babri Masjid, was recently laid by suspended TMC MLA Humayun Kabir in Beldanga.

Bhagwat said such actions were being carried out for votes and should not happen. He said that as per norms, governments should not construct temples or any religious structures. He said Ram temple was built in Ayodhya following a Supreme Court judgment and after the formation of a trust. "Government money was not used. The temple was built through donations," he added.



Speaking on alleged atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh, Bhagwat said, "Hindus in Bangladesh must remain united and Hindus across India should extend support to them." He added that if Hindu society remains united, a visible change will also be seen in Bengal.

Responding to a question, he asserted that Hindustan is a Hindu nation. He rejected allegations that the RSS is anti-Muslim. "The Sangh has no doors and works openly. Anyone can come and see how we function and then form their opinion," he said.

LUCKNOW DIARY

NAMITA BAJPAI
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'Unwanted guest' at Yogi's entourage

The stray animal issue been pinching the ruling BJP in election after election, and not to anyone's surprise, it was CM Yogi Adityanath who fell victim to the menace. A cow intruded into the CM's convoy during his recent visit to Gorakhpur. As soon as the CM's entourage halted, Gorakhpur MP Ravi Kishan stepped out of the car, followed by CM Yogi. Suddenly, a cow rushed towards Yogi. However, the security personnel jumped into action and saved the CM. However, the Gorakhpur Municipal corporation supervisor, Arvind Kumar, was suspended for failing to sanitise the area ahead of the VIP movement. An internal probe has been ordered into it.

YouTuber's ill-gotten wealth puzzles officials

Days after intelligence sleuths were left wide-eyed seeing the palatial bungalow of a humble constable, an accused in the codeine syrup racket case, the ED team was surprised to find four luxury vehicles- including a Lamborghini Urus worth ₹ 4.18 crore and a Mercedes- from the Nawabganj residence of popular YouTuber Anurag Dwivedi in UP's Unnao. Dwivedi is accused of amassing illicit wealth funneled through hawala networks. All four vehicles were flagged as proceeds of crime under the (PMLA). Probes revealed that Dwivedi pocketed huge payments via hawala operators, mule accounts, cash drops through middlemen.

IIT-K alumni pledge ₹11 crore to alma mater

In a heart-warming gesture, the alumni of Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur who passed out 40 years ago have pledged ₹11 crore to support three landmark legacy projects on campus. The Class of 1986 made this announcement during their reunion held from December 18 to 21. It brought together alumni from across the globe to contribute to IIT Kanpur's future. The pledged amount will be directed towards three initiatives that address student life, wellbeing, and community engagement on campus: the SAC Extension Auditorium, the Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing, and a Tower in the New Hall of Residence.

Report sought on jumbo deaths in train hit: Centre

SUBHENDU MAITI & PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Sundarbans/Guwahati

UNION Minister Bhupender Yadav on Sunday said the Centre has sought a report on the death of elephants in a train collision in the Changjurai village of Assam's Hojai district.

Talking to the press after meetings on Project Elephant and the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) at the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve in West Bengal, Yadav said, "All states have been asked to monitor elephant movement along railway tracks and coordinate with forest departments."

Seven elephants died on the spot on Saturday after being hit by the Sairang–New Delhi Rajdhani Express in Changjurai, while a calf injured in the accident succumbed to its injuries on Sunday. The calf, barely a few days old, had been rushed to the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation near the Kaziranga National Park with fractured legs and damaged internal organs. "The baby elephant was bleeding from the mouth. We could not save its life despite our best efforts," said Bhaskar Choudhury, a veterinarian at the centre.

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma has told the state forest department to probe the matter.

Bihar Cong to reset party structure from panchayat level up after assembly loss

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

THE Congress will launch a comprehensive campaign to revive the party in Bihar after its dismal performance in the recent Assembly election by strengthening its organisation at the grassroots level.

After the inauspicious period of Kharmas ends on January 14, the party will launch the campaign to empower the party's organisation down to the panchayat level, identify organisational weaknesses, and infuse new energy into the party workers. As part of the party's initiative for revival, senior and experienced Congress leaders will camp in various districts and review party activities from the district to the panchayat level. A concrete action plan for the future will be prepared based on its findings.

The party sources said that the campaign would be conducted in a phased manner across the state. In each district, a team of senior leaders will stay for a few days to assess the organisational situation at the district, block, and panchayat levels. During this time, a detailed review will be conducted of the party's activities, booth-level strength, progress of the membership drive, and the reasons for the electoral defeat.

Direct communication will be established with local leaders and workers during the district camps. Workers will be encouraged to express their problems openly, give suggestions, and list out local issues so that shortcomings can be addressed.

The party's senior leaders will also assess which areas have weak organisational structures and how they need to be reorganised. Emphasis will also be placed on identifying inactive office-bearers, assigning responsibilities to active workers, and giving a more effective role to Yuva Congress and Mahila Congress. In the last Assembly election, Congress could win only 6 out of 61 seats it contested.

Fresh approach

Direct communication will be established with local leaders and workers during the district camps. Workers will be encouraged to express their problems openly, give suggestions, and list out local issues so that shortcomings can be addressed.

BJP single largest party as MahaYuti sweeps local polls

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE BJP on Sunday emerged as the single-largest party in Maharashtra urban local body polls, winning 129 Nagar Parishads out of 288. It also won a majority of municipal councillor seats across the state.

According to the latest results, the MahaYuti has consolidated its dominance. Deputy CM Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-led NCP secured 51 and 32 Nagar Parishads, respectively. The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) put up a weak show, with Congress winning 35 Nagar Parishads, Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena nine and Sharad Pawar-led NCP eight. Smaller parties and independents won 24 Nagar Parishads. The BJP dominated the directly elected president posts of Nagar Parishads, winning 117 positions. Its allies Shiv Sena and NCP won 53 and 37 president posts, respectively. The Congress won 28 president posts, Shiv Sena (UBT) nine and NCP (SP) seven. Smaller parties and independents won 25 posts.

Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said the BJP has again emerged as number one. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, under the guidance of BJP national president and Union minister J P Nadda and BJP national executive president Nitin Nabin ji, and due to the tireless hard work of BJP state president Ravindra Chavan and all workers, BJP is once again number 1 in the state."

Ravindra Chavan said, "Victory is due to the hard work of the party workers and the guidance of senior BJP leaders. Once again, people showed faith and trust in the BJP and the voters also did not buy the fake narrative of the opposition."

The results dealt a blow to the MVA, particularly NCP (SP) and Shiv Sena (UBT). Though the Congress did not perform strongly, it managed to muster better numbers compared to its partners.

A political observer said the results are not surprising because in local elections, people prefer to go with the ruling establishment. "But the opposition has to learn a lot and work hard if they want to become a significant force in state politics. The ruling party will now face rising expectations," he said.

Kashmir turns white in season's first snowfall

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

COINCIDING with the onset of 40-day harshest winter period of Chilai Kalan, Kashmir received its first snowfall of the season, transforming Gulmarg and Sonamarg into winter wonderlands. A white blanket of snow brought cheers not only to locals and tourists, but also sparked renewed optimism among tourism stakeholders about revival of tourism post April 22 Pahalgam attack.

Several upper reaches of the Valley, including Razdan Top, Sadhna Top, Fakriya Top, Z Gali, Tulail, Margan Top, Peer Ki Gali, Sinthan Top, Doodhpathri, received moderate to heavy snowfall. Rainfall lashed the plains, including Srinagar, marking an end to the long dry spell. The snowfall has enhanced the scenic beauty of Gulmarg and Sonamarg with tourists enjoyed snowflakes, taking photographs, and enjoying the serene atmosphere.

A tourist from Chandigarh, Harbans Singh said his family visited Gulmarg after learning about the snowfall forecast. "We were eagerly waiting for the snowfall and it is for the first time in my life that I am seeing live snowfall. Our family enjoyed a lot and captured wonderful moments in our cameras and smartphones," he said.

Several upper reaches of Valley receive moderate to heavy snowfall | ZAHOOR PUNJABI

Another tourist, Raman Rathore from Pune, termed the experience "unforgettable". "We are very fortunate that Chilai Kalan has started today and has brought snow along with it. The snow has turned Gulmarg into a true winter wonderland. It is a unique and wonderful experience," he said. "We had only heard that Kashmir is a paradise, but today we could see it," he remarked, urging people to visit Gulmarg to enjoy its natural beauty and snow-covered slopes.

Local tourism stakeholders have welcomed the snowfall with optimism. Abdul Hamid, a local tourist guide, said they had been waiting for snowfall in Gulmarg for the last two months. "The snowfall has lit up Gulmarg, and more tourists will visit now. It will increase employment opportunities for tourist guides and others associated with the tourism sector," he said. Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK) president Farooq Ahmad Kathoo dubbed the snowfall "a very good sign and good omen for Kashmir tourism". "We are already receiving queries from intending travellers who are planning to visit Kashmir to enjoy snowfall," he added.

In order to restore confidence among travellers, the Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI) held its three-day 17th annual convention in Srinagar last week to send a message that Kashmir is safe and normal.

Faiz Bakshi, secretary general, Kashmir Chambers of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), said holding of ATOAI annual conference and snowfall will significantly boost Kashmir tourism.

Lord Curzon's 123-year-old gift to Golden Temple starts ticking again

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

TWO years on, a 123-year-old manual clock gifted to the Golden Temple by Lord Curzon—the Viceroy of India from 1899 to 1905—has been restored. It will be placed back in the sacred sanctorum next month.

It was in 2023 that the Birmingham-based Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha (GNNSJ) took out this brass-made one-foot-wide and one-and-a-half-foot-tall manual clock weighing 10 kilograms from the Golden Temple to Birmingham in the United Kingdom. The SGPC (Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee) had handed the restoration and conservation of frescos, wall paintings and golden plates of the shrine to the GNNSJ, led by Bhai Mohinder Singh. The clock, made on order for Lord Curzon in 1900, is now ticking again.

It was on April 9, 1900, that Lord Curzon and his wife visited the Golden Temple. During the visit, he came across what he described as an "unworthy appearance of the clock which used to hang upon the walls of the Harmandir." He expressed his desire to replace it with a more "fitting timepiece." A clock was subsequently ordered from Elkington & Co Limited in Birmingham. It took two years to make and was shipped to India. On October 31, 1902, it was presented through the then Lahore commissioner.

Inderjit Singh, a representative of GNNSJ, told this paper, "We took this clock to Elkington & Co Ltd from where this clock was made on order. We do not know when it stopped working. Thus, the original mechanical movement system of this manual clock, hands and dial had been removed and replaced long back with a quartz mechanism and dull aluminium dial, but it supposedly did not work either. The brass housing bore dents, cracks, scratches and missing decorative elements."

He explained that once the clock was removed, extensive research was carried out, and the officials and employees of the company made a brand-new manual system of the watch piece by piece and assembled the timepiece again.

EQUITAS SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD (FORMERLY KNOWN AS EQUITAS FINANCE LTD)
REGISTERED OFFICE- NO. 769, SPANCER PLAZA 4TH FLOOR, PHASE II, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI, TN- 600002, PH-044- 42995000, 044-42995050

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

APPENDIX IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8(6)] – Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest(Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property montaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Equitas small finance Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned accounts. The details of Borrower'(s) Mortgagor(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Secured Assets Dues Reserve Price/E-Auction date & time and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below

Name & Address of Borrowers/ Mortgagers/ Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties with known encumbrances, if any	Reserve Price EMD Price & Bid Increase Price	Date & Time of E-Auction	Loan / Total Dues
Mr/Mrs NARASIMHAMURTHY C/O Mr/Mrs KEMPAIAH **Mr/Mrs CHANDRAKALA C/O Mr/Mrs NANJAIAH** **(Both are residing at NO** 9/106, MAGADI MAIN ROAD,, MUNESHWAR BADAVANE CHIKKAGOLLAHALLI,, KODIGEHALLI, BANGALORE RURAL, KARNATAKA, 560091)	All that piece and parcel of the immovable Northern portion of property bearing site no.09, V.P.Katha No.963, Assessment no.106, situated at Kodigehalli village, Kodigehalli Grampanchyath, Yeshwathpura Hobli, Bangalore North Tauk. (North by)- Site No.10 (South by)- Southern portion of site no.09 belongs to Nandini (East by)- Land belongs to Smt.Gowramma (West by)- Road.	Rs.1824000 Rs.182400 Rs.10,000	27-01-2026 From 11.00 AM to 12.30 PM	Loan Account No:- SEPEEYA0267003 / 200001644555 Claim Amount Due Rs.1678104/- as on 12.03.2025 with further interest from 13.03.2025 with monthly rest, charges and costs, etc., (Total Outstanding being Rs.2178990/- as on 10.12.2025).
For details and queries on purchase and sale contact no- Mabusab 8861292573 , Rakesh M V 9611500100, Naveena N 9611500100.				
Mr/Mrs GOWRAMMA C/O Mr/Mrs CHIKKAYALLAPPA **Mr/Mrs NAGRAJA V C/O Mr/Mrs VENKARAMAPPA** **(Both are residing at** 2 MAIN #124 -1 SAMETHANAHALLI BANGALORE, KARNATAKA, SAMETHANAHALLI, BANGALORE, KARNATAKA, 560067)	All the piece and parcel of the Property Bearing Site No.53/31, PID No. 150300402500521782, Situated at Samethanahalli village, Anugondanagalli Hobli, Hoskote taluk, Banglore Rural. Measuring East to West 38 Feet (11.60 mtrs) and North to South 28 Feet (8.60 mtrs). Total measuring 1072 Sq Feet. (North by)- Property of Sumithra (South by)- Property of Kullappa and Kaveraya (East by)- Property of Chinnppa (West by)- Road	Rs.2554000 Rs.255400 Rs.10,000	27-01-2026 From 11.00 AM to 12.30 PM	Loan Account No:- SEKRPRM0443790 Claim Amount Due Rs.1037156/- as on 19.05.2025 with further interest from20.05.2025 with monthly rest, charges and costs, etc., (Total Outstanding being Rs.1177837/- as on 10.12.2025).
For details and queries on purchase and sale contact no- Mabusab 8861292573 , Rakesh M V 9611500100, Naveena N 9611500100				
Mr/Mrs SRINIVASIAH S Y C/OMr/Mrs YALLAPPA **Mr/Mrs PADMAVATHI C AC/OMr/Mrs APPAYYA** **Mr/Mrs PRAJWAL S SC/OMr/Mrs SRINIVASAIAH Y** **(All are residing at** NO 453/1 MG ROAD, SARJAPURA, SARJAPURA, BANGALORE, KARNATAKA, 562125 - Ph :9108881011)	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing PID No. 150200102300102585 residential Vacant Site as per Form No.9 site No. 1449/1096/8+9, as per Form No.10, Khanesumari No.1157/1096/8+9 Janjar No. 1731, converted residential sites formed out in Survey No.453, measuring EW 12.192 Mtr (40 feet) NS 13.716000000000000001 Mtr (45 feet) in all totally site measuring 167.23 Sqr Mtrs (1800 Sqr Feet) Vide Conversion Order No. ALN.SR.49/91-92, dated 22.05.1992, situated at Sarjapura Village, in the limits of Sarjapura Village. and land converted from agriculture to non agricultural for residential purpose.	Rs.5164000 Rs.516400 Rs.10,000	27-01-2026 From 11.00 AM to 12.30 PM	Loan Account No:- SEPEEYA0404812 / 200001798662 Claim Amount Due Rs.1547158/- as on 12.04.2025 with further interest from 13.04.2025 with monthly rest, charges and costs, etc., (Total Outstanding being Rs.1725921/- as on 10.12.2025).
For details and queries on purchase and sale contact no- Mabusab 8861292573 , Rakesh M V 9611500100, Naveena N 9611500100.				
Mr/Mrs MANJULA C/O Mr/Mrs LAKSHMIKANTH **Mr/Mrs SRIKANTA CHARIC/OMr/Mrs VEERABHADRACHARI** **(Both are residing at** NO 27 GROUND FLOOR 2ND MAIN, 4TH CROSS, DWARAKA NAGAR, BANGALORE, CHIKKABANAVARA, BANGALORE RURAL, KARNATAKA, 560090)	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing khaneshumari No.56,56/1,PID No.150200100400900091,Situated at Bukkasagara Village,Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore (North by)- Property of Veerabhadrachari (South by)- House of Rudracharu (East by)- House of Obbareddy (West by)- Road	Rs.1216000 Rs.121600 Rs.10,000	27-01-2026 From 11.00 AM to 12.30 PM	Loan Account No:- SERTNAG0244182 Claim Amount Due Rs.676717/- as on 05.05.2025 with further interest from 06.05.2025 with monthly rest, charges and costs, etc., (Total Outstanding being Rs.800511/- as on 10.12.2025).
For details and queries on purchase and sale contact no- Mabusab 8861292573 , Rakesh M V 9611500100, Naveena N 9611500100				
RAJESHWARI P **DAS T** **(Both are residing at** NO 34 CHUECH ROAD GUNDAPPA LAYOUT NAGASANDRA BANGALORE BANGALORE KARNATAKA IN - 560073)	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Assessment No.40,Katha No.1888,Site No.26,measuring East to West 40 Feet and Eastern Portion 35 Feet, Western Portion 28 Feet,in all total measuring 1260 Sq Feet,Situated at Dasarahalli Nagarasabhe, Bangalore City, Yashwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk.	Rs.6195000 Rs.619500 Rs.10,000	27-01-2026 From 11.00 AM to 12.30 PM	Loan Account No:- SERTNAG0456680/200002387233 Claim Amount Due Rs.2620831/- as on 17.02.2025 with further interest from 18.02.2025 with monthly rest, charges and costs, etc., (Total Outstanding being Rs.3242322/- as on 10.12.2025).
For details and queries on purchase and sale contact no- Mabusab 8861292573 , Rakesh M V 9611500100, Naveena N 9611500100				

The intending purchaser/ bidder is required to submit amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by way of NEFT/RTGS/DD in the account of "Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd" Account No- 200000807725 and IFSC code- ESFB0001001 Bhaaggyam Galleria New No. 18 , Bazzulla Road, T-Nagar, Chennai-600 117, drawn on any nationalized or scheduled bank on or before date: 23-01-2026

For details for terms & conditions of E-Auction sale please refer to the link provided in www. Equitasbank.com & https://www.bankeauctions.com.

Date - 22.12.2025, Place - Bangalore **Authorized officer, Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd**

AXIS BANK Plot No. 41, Seshadri Road, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore-560009

DEMAND NOTICE

A notice is hereby given that the following borrowers have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of credit facilities obtained by them from the bank and said facilities have turned in to Non-performing Assets. The notices were issued to them under section 13(2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 on their last known addresses, however the same have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower	Property Address on Which Loan Availed	Notice Date	Bal. O/S (Claimed) in Rs.
1	(1) **Mr. Sathish** S/o. Mr. Kanakaraj No. 18, 5th Cross, 2nd Main, Shivanagar, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore-560010. **Also at:** No.3073, Tower 3, Golden Panorama, Gubbalalu Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore-560061. (2) **Mrs. Chandana** W/o. Mr. Sathish No.18, 5th Cross, 2nd Main, Shivanagar, Bajaj Nagar, Bangalore-560010. **Also at:** No.476, Bharata Nagara, Ward 2, Vijayapura, Bangalore-562135. **Also at:** No.3073, Tower 3, Golden Panorama, Gubbalalu Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore-560061. (3) **M/s. Manjunatha Traders Represented by proprietor K. Sathish,** No.18, 5th Cross, 2nd Main, Shivanagar, Rajaj Nagar, Bangalore-560010.	**Description of the property belongs to Mr. Sathish Kanakaraj** **SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY :** All That Piece And Parcel Of The residentially converted land measuring 1 Acre 04 Guntas in Sy. No. 42 and land measuring 3 acres 36 guntas in Sy.No.44, totally measuring 5 acres situated at Gubbalalu Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded as follows: East By : Remaining portion of land in Sy. No.44, West By : Survey No.43, North By : Road & abutting the remaining portion of land in Sy. No.44 and 48, South By : Remaining portion of land in Sy. No.42. **SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY (APARTMENT) :** Residential Apartment described below in the Apartment complex known as "GOLDEN PANORAMA" together with common area, common facilities, common open space, common stair case, common water and sanitation, separate electricity, easement rights and appurtenances thereto. Unit No.: 3073; Floor: Seventh; Block/Tower: Two; Super Built up Area: 1,210; Carpet Area: 792; Undivided Share of land in Schedule A Property: 511; Car Park No(s): 1. **For any clarification, please contact Mr. Prem, Collection Manager No. 8880041234.**	01.12.2025 NPA Date 05.11.2025	**OVER DRAFT AGAINST PROPERTY** Loan A/c No. 9200300196 29762 Amount Rs. 41,57,412/- Total O/s Amount Rs.14,48,279/- as on 02.12.2025
2.	(1) **Mr. Subramaniam Rama,** #772, 1st cross, 1st stage Indranagar, Bangalore-560038. **Also at : Mr. Subramaniam Rama** Thinkgen limited Managing Director, 10-1A, ITPL Road Hoodi Whitefield Bangalore-560048. **Also at : Mr. Subramaniam Rama,** Apartment No.102, 1st floor Eden Hall Defence Colony Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038 **(Borrower/Applicant).** (2) **Mrs. R Mahalakshmi** W/o Subramaniam Rama, #772, 1st Cross, 1st stage, Indranagar, Bangalore-560038. **Also at : Mrs. R Mahalakshmi Thinkgen limited Managing Director,** 10-1A, ITPL Road Hoodi Whitefield Bangalore-560048. **Also at : Mrs. R. Mahalakshmi** W/o Subramaniam Rama, Apartment No.102, 1st floor Eden Hall Defence Colony Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038 **(Co-Applicant/Guarantor)**	**SCHEDULE PROPERTY** **SCHEDULE-A (Description of the entire Property) :** All that piece and parcel of the Land bearing No.245, defence colony(earlier Binnamangala Layout) Presently BMP Ward No.74, bangalore, measuring East to West 105 feet(32.004 meters) North to South 70 feet(21.336 Meters) In all 7350 or 682.815 Square meters and bounded as follows: East by : 80 feet Road, West by : Site bearing No.230, North by : Site bearing No.246 and South by : Site bearing No.214. **SCHEDULE-B (Description of Undivided share) :** An undivided share in the A Schedule property i.e. 1070.12 square feet. **SCHEDULE-C (Description of Apartment) :** All that piece and parcel of the three bedroom apartment No.102 on the first floor of the apartment building known as Eden hall having 2,279 Square feet area with a single car parking space bearing No.6 in the basement constructed over A Schedule property BBMP Khatha No.245/3 Defence Colony as is where is condition. **Note : Earlier 13.2 Notice issued Dated 16 Jul 22 is here by Withdrawn.** **For any clarification please contact Mr. Raghunath 9886960484.**	03.12.2025 NPA Date 03.09.2021	**Housing Loan** Loan A/c No. 00910600067926 Amount : Rs. 40,00,000/- Total O/s Amount: Rs. 24,65,488/- as on 03.12.2025
3.	1. **Mr. Kolar Seenappa Jayaram** S/o. Mr. Kolar Hanumappa Seenappa, (2) **Mr. Kolar Jayaram Sandeep,** (3) **Mrs. Pushpa Jayaram** W/o. Mr. Kolar Seenappa Jayaram, **All are residing at:** No. 952, 24th Main Road, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560041.	**Description Of The Property Belongs To Mr. Kolar Seenappa Jayaram** **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTIES:** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No: 952, BBMP Khata No: 11, formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, situated at 23rd A Main, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 63 feet and North to South: 40 feet, with building thereonand bounded as follows: East by :Road, West by :Site No: 945, North by : Site No: 953, South by :Site No: 951. **For any clarification, please contact Mr. Prem Mobile No. 8880041234.**	01.12.2025 NPA Date 23.11.2025	**ASSET POWER BRE** Loan A/c No. LPR000905612960 Amount : Rs. 62,49,415/- Total O/s Amount: Rs. 1,81,966/- as on 27.11.2025
4.	(1) **Mr. O. Krishna** S/o. Mr. Obalesh, (2) **Mr. O. Babu** S/o. Mr. Obalesh, **Both are residing at:** No.311D, Railway Quarters, Magadi Road, Near Venkateshwara Temple, Bangalore-560023. **Also at:** Flat No-B8-305, 3rd Floor, Alur BDA Block 7&8, Alur Village, Dasanapura, Hobli, Bangalore-562162. **Also at: Mr. O. Babu** S/o. Mr. Obalesh, No. 267/C, M.G. Railway Quarters, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023.	**Description Of The Property Belongs To Mr. O. Krishna** All that Flat No B08-305, 3rd Floor, Alur Housing Projects, Block 7 And 8, Sy No 113 Aluru Village Dasanapura Hobli Bangalore 562,123 together with the right to use common areas of the building, the right to use water closet, drainage, lavatories and other conveniences and facilities, amenities in or upon or pertaining to or connected to the flat/unit/office premises, both present and future and easementary rights and together with all fixtures and fittings, both present and future. Boundaries of the Plot: North : Block No.08-Flat No. 304, South : Block No.08-Flat No. 306, East : Open Space, West : Block No.08-Flat No. 308. Measurement: 3250 Sq Ft. **For any clarification, please contact Mr. Prem Mobile No. 8880041234.**	01.12.2025 NPA Date 08.11.2025	**ASSET POWER BRE** Loan A/c No. LPR168805158147 Amount : Rs. 5,65,302/- Total Amount: Rs.4,61,338/- **ASSET POWER BRE** Loan A/c No. LTR168808008578 Amount : Rs.7,02,349/- Total Amount: Rs. 6,80,008/- Total O/s Amount: Rs. 11,41,346/- as on 27.11.2025

Please note that as mention in sub–sec. 13 of sec.-13 of the aforesaid Act, you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of the assets stated under security referred to in this notice without prior written consent of our bank.

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrowers and/ or the guarantors (where ever applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice as per the provision of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002. Please note that under Section 13(13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, after Receipt of Notice referred to in Sub-section (2), transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

The Borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of sections 13 of the Act. The borrowers may redeem the secured assets by paying the dues of the secured creditor together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets.

Date : 20.12.2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **Axis Bank Ltd.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that, my clients G. Umesh, S/o. Late Govindhaiah, aged about 40 years, residing at No.3, 5th Main, 'A' Cross, New Extension, Byatarayanapura, Bangalore - 560 026. Is the absolute owner of property bearing old No.77, New No.3, situated at 2nd 'B' Main Road, Avalahalli Layout, Mysore Road, Bangalore - 560 026, Measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 45 feet, and hereinafter referred to as the Schedule Property. It is submitted that, the (1). Original Sale Deed dated. 27.03.1963, registered as Document No. 1165/62-63, Book I, Volume 407, CD Pages 22 to 23, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South, Bangalore, (2). Sale Deed dated 30.06.1980 registered as Document No.2858/1980-81, Book I, Volume 1523, Pages 172 to 174, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South, Bangalore and another (3). Will dated. 18.03.2016, registered as Document No. CMP-3-00338-2015-16, Book 3, Stored in CD. No. CMPD156, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Chamarajpet, Bangalore pertaining to the schedule property and other documents have been lost. Regarding which E/Compliant lodge in Bangalore vide lost Three (3) reports No. 1952419/2025 dated.12.12.2025, No. 1954711/2025 dated.13.12.2025 and No. 1954740/2025 dated.13.12.2025 respectively.

Finder of the aforesaid documents may return the same to my clients or the undersigned. Public are hereby cautioned not to deal with the schedule property in any manner on the basis of the lost documents. If anybody does so, he/she/they will be doing so at his/her/their risk and cost, for which my clients shall not be responsible.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing old No.77, New No.3, situated at 2nd 'B' Main Road, Avalahalli Layout, Mysore Road, Bangalore - 560 026, Measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 45 feet, bounded on the : East by : Old Site No.78, West by : Western half portion in same number, North by : Road and South by : Old Site No.76 & 80.

P.V. RAGHUPATHI, Advocate,
No.12/2, 3rd Floor, 10th Cross, Cubbonpet,
Bangalore-560 002. Ph: 9986874123
Date : 20.12.2025

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II AT BANGALORE
4th Floor, BSNL Building, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru- 560 001

Original Application No.1858/2024

Between : **STATE BANK OF INDIA,** Kumara Park West, Sheshadripuram (Lending Branch) Represented by its Chief Manager Stressed Asset Recovery Branch (SARB) Mr. Nagaraja V., J. C. Road, Bangalore - 560 002 , Email ID : sbi.05173@ sbi.co.in, PAN No. AAACS8577K, IFSC Code : SBIN0005173, Mobile No. 9448441455 **...Applicant**

AND

Mrs. B. Divya and Another ....Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 TO THE DEFENDANT No. 1 & 2 THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION

To : 1. Mrs. B.Divya , W/o. Balaji, Aged about 37 years No. 86/42, 1st Main, 14th Cross, Muneshwara Block, Sriram Nagar, Bangalore -560 086.

2. Sri A. K. Raghu, Builder/Developer, No. 2, 8th Main, IOB Bank Lane, Beside Bharadwaja Apartment , Balaji Layout, Kodigehalli, Bangalore - 560 092.

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against Defendant for Recovery sum of **Rs.42,28,624/-** (Rupees Forty Two Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Four Only) The above mentioned Defendant are directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly authorised agent in support of your defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **23.02.2026 at 11.00 a.m.** as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal, on this the **21.10.2025** at Bangalore.

By order of the Tribunal
Sd/-Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2 Bengaluru

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II AT BANGALORE
4th Floor, BSNL Building, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru- 560 001

Original Application No.1856/2024

Between : **STATE BANK OF INDIA,** RACPC Banaswadi Branch (Lending Branch) Represented by its Chief Manager Stressed Asset Recovery Branch (SARB) Mr. Nagaraja V., J. C. Road, Bangalore - 560 002 , Email ID : sbi.05173@ sbi.co.in, PAN No. AAACS8577K, IFSC Code : SBIN0005173, Mobile No. 9448441455 **...Applicant**

AND

Mr. Venkateshwara Rao and Another ....Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 TO THE DEFENDANT No. 1 & 2 THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION

To : 1. Mr. Venkateshwara Rao, S/o. Yaramma Rao, Aged about 48 Years Residing at No. 7, 2nd Floor, Narayanappa Layout, Kempapura, Suma Public School, Bangalore - 560 024, PAN No. AXZPR7152C.

Also Having Addess at :

a) No. 25, Sri Venkateshwara Nilaya, Vayunandana Layout, Hebbal, Kempapura, Bangalore North, H. A. Farm, Bangalore , Karnataka - 560 024.

b) # 103, Thirumala Residency 1st Floor, Sy. No. 112/2, Jakkur Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore 560 064.

c) Office At : Mr. Venkateshwara Rao, Sri Balaji Elevators and Borewells Service, #7,Ground Floor,Narayanappa Layout, Kempapura, Suma Public School, Bangalore - 560 024.

2. Mrs. J. Padmavati, W/o. Venkateshwara Rao, Aged about 40 years, Residing at : #7,Ground Floor,Narayanappa Layout, Kempapura, Suma Public School, Bangalore - 560 024. PAN No. : EEDPP3555N

Also having address at : a) # 103, Thirumala Residency 1st Floor, Sy. No. 112/2, Jakkur Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore 560 064.

a) Office at : Mrs. J. Padmavathi , Padmavathi Enterprises,#7,Ground Floor, Narayanappa Layout, Kempapura, Suma Public School, Bangalore - 560 024.

1. WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against Defendant for Recovery sum of **Rs.1,06,47,466.2/-** (Rupees One Crore Six Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Six and Paise Twenty Only)

2.The above mentioned Defendant are directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly authorised agent in support of your defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **23.02.2026 at 11.00 a.m.** as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal, on this the **21.10.2025** at Bangalore.

By order of the Tribunal
Sd/-Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2 Bengaluru

Canara Bank
A Government of India Undertaking
Head Office : Bangalore

ARM - 1 Branch, 2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No.86, M G Road, Bengaluru - 60001.
Email : cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical Possession** of which has been taken by the **Authorised Officer of ARM Branch-1 (Earlier Cantonment Branch), Bengaluru** of the **Canara Bank, ARM-1 Branch (2366)** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 23.01.2026 (10.30 AM to 11.00 AM).**

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS / NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan **on or before 22.01.2026 at 5.00 pm.**

Lot	Name and Address of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Total Liabilities	Description of the immovable assets:	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1.	**1. Rakesh Pandey S/o. Kanhayyalal Pandey,** # 175, Flat No-8, Sri Lakshmi Devi Nilaya, Muneshwara Temple Road, 1st Phase, 3rd Cross, Bangalore - 560085. **2. Aarti Pandey W/o. Rakesh Pandey** # 175, Flat No-8, Sri Lakshmi Devi Nilaya, Muneshwara Temple Road, 1st Phase, 3rd Cross, Bangalore - 560085.	**Rs. 1,52,49,084.70 (Rupees One Crore Fifty Two Lakh Forty Nine Thousands Eighty Four and Paisa Seventy Only) as on 18.12.2025**	Residential property carved out of the lands in survey No. 31/1 of erstwhile Deevatigeramanahali (Deepanjali Nagar) now within the limit of BBMP and bearing Municipal No. 15, PID No. 41-22-15, New PID No.158-W0045-16 situated at Deepanjali Nagar layout, presently under the limit of Corporation Ward- "Gali Anjaneyaswami Temple" measuring total area 1871.28 Sq. Ft. and bounded on the : **East by :** Property No.16, **West by :** Property No.14, **North by :** Railway Property, **South by :** Road. Google Co-ordinate: 12.951883 N 77.531805 E	₹ 90.00 Lakhs	₹ 9.00 Lakhs	₹ 1.00 Lakhs
2.	**1. Mr. Sanjesh Parasmal Shah,** No 15 Chikkannama Temple Street Cubbonpet Cross Joripet Bangalore Karnataka - 560002. **2. Mrs. Asha Shah,** No. 15 Chikkannama Temple Street Cubbonpet Cross Joripet Bangalore Karnataka - 560002 **3. Mrs. Indira Devi Shah,** No. 10 9th Cross Cubbonpet, Bangalore Karnataka 560002	**Rs. 1,70,59,639.65 (Rupees One Crore Seventy Lakh Fifty Nine Thousands Six Hundred Thirty Nine and Paisa Sixty Five Only) with further interest and cost thereon.**	Residential property carved out of the lands in survey No. 31/1 of erstwhile Deevatige Ramanahali Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk now within the limit of BBMP and bearing Municipal No. 14, PID No. 41-22-15, New PID No.158-W0046-3 situated at Deepanjali Nagar layout, under Municipal Ward No. 41-Gali Anjaneyaswami Temple measuring total area 2242.682 Sq. Ft. and bounded on the : **East by :** Site No.15, **West by :** Site No.13, **North by :** Railway Property, **South by :** Road. Google Co-ordinate: 12.951908, 77.531808	₹ 90.00 Lakhs	₹ 9.00 Lakhs	₹ 1.00 Lakhs

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's Website : (www.canarabank.com) or may Contact Authorised Officer, ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No. 9483544116 and 6301683293 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 19.12.2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **Canara Bank**

LIC HFL LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

1st Floor, Jeevan Mangal Building, Hayes Road, Bengaluru -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

POSSESSION NOTICE (Rule 8 (1))
(For Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Office of the M/S, LIC Housing Finance Limited the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of security Interest(enforcement) Rule 2002 issued demand notice on below mentioned date calling upon the borrower/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act with rule 9 of the said rules on below mentioned date.

The Borrower and the public in general are here by \cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with property will be subject to the charge of M/s. LIC Housing Finance Limited for an amount notice mentioned below and interest thereon,

The Borrower attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of the said ACT, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets

Name of the Borrower, Loan No & Possession Taken Date	Demand Notice Date	Notce Amount	Description of the Property
M/S. Global Developers, Mr. P Kodanda Rami Reddy, Mrs. P Sunitha, Mr. A. Sreenivasulu Reddy, Shri.S. Parashiva Murthy, Shri.A.B. Udayashankar, Shri. S. Kumaraswamy, Shri. S. Vijayakumar, Mrs.Jayamma, Mrs. Kanta Lakshmi, Mrs. Suvarna, Mrs. Shobha, Mrs. Saraswathi,	30/07/2024	Rs. 65,64,39,664.00	Mentioned below

Description of the Property : All that piece and parcel of converted property bearing Sy. No 43 measuring 02 Acres and 01 Guntas, Sy. No.44/1 measuring 04 Acres 8.08 Guntas, Sy.No.45/2 measuring 02 Acres and 1.08 Guntas: Sy.No45/3 measuring 02 Acres 1.08 Guntas and Sy.No.53/2 measuring 04 Acres and 12 Guntas in all measuring 14 Acres 24.50 Guntas and duly converted to non-agricultural residential purpose by vide Order No. ALN(A)SR143/2004-05 dt 03/09/2004: Order No. ALN(A)SR115/2010-11 dt.06/07/2011 and Order No. ALN(A)SR114/2010-11dt.06/07/2010-11 and Order No. ALN(A)SR: 127/2010-11 dt.06/07/2011 of Deputy Commissioner respectively and situated at Indlaele Village, Atibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on East by; Land in Sy.No67 & 53/3: West by; Attibele to Indlabele Road and land in Sy.No.42 & 39P: North by; Land in Sy.No.53/1 & 50 and remaining land in Sy.No.44/1: South by; Land in Sy.No.42: 45/4: & 53/3.

Schedule 1
List of Sites offered as additional Collateral Security
ADIGONDANAHALLI VILLAGE, ATTIBELE HOBLI, BANGALORE
RESIDENTIAL SITES

Sl. No.	Sy No.	Site No.	Site Dimension	Total No of Sites	Total Land Area	Location of the Property
1	Sy No 69/1(69/1A, 69/1B)	299, 300, 301,302	63.70X30, 63.25X30, 65.87X30, 67.50X30	1, 1, 1, 1	1911, 1897.50,1976.25, 2025	Adigondanahalli
2	Sy No 69/1	303, 304, 305, 306	67X30	4	8040	
3	Sy No 69/1	307, 308, 309	30X55	3	4950	
4	Sy No 69/3	319	38.75X41	01	1588	
5	Sy No 69/3	320	30X41.75	01	1256	
6	Sy No 69/3	321	30X43.50	01	1305	
7	Sy No 69/3	322, 323, 324	30X46	03	4140	
8	Sy No 69/3	325, 326, 327	30X52	03	1560	
9	Sy No 69/3	328	33.25X54.60	01	1815	
10	Sy No 75/11	45	37.87X40.25	01	1524	
11	Sy No 75/11	46	29X40.29	01	1168.50	
12	Sy No 75/11	49	41X62.50	01	2500	
13	Sy No 75/11	50	43.58X41.75	01	1819	
				Total	39,475.25 Sft.	

COMMERCIAL SITES
ADIGONDANAHALLI VILLAGE & JIGALA VILLAGE, ATTIBELE HOBLI, BANGALORE

Sl. No.	Sy No.	Site No.	Site Dimension	Total No of Sites	Total Land Area	Location of the Property
1	Sy No 75/8	8	95.375X110.75	1	10,562	Adigondanahalli
2	Sy No 75/8	7	99X50	1	4950	Adigondanahalli
3	Sy No 185	49	120.785X110	1	13286	Jigala
				Total	28,798 sft.	

SCHEDULE III : Details of the Villas given as negative lien

Sl. No.	Villa No.	Sft..	Builtup Area	Basic Rate	Total cost	Sl. No.	Villa No.	Sft..	Builtup Area	Basic Rate	Total cost
1	4	1577.92	2540.46	4500	1,14,32,062.57	26	86	1116.29	1797.22	4500	80,87,509.82
2	8	1647.77	2652.91	4500	1,19,38,092.35	27	109	1091.27	1756.94	4500	79,06,227.97
3	17	2066.67	3327.34	4500	1,49,73,024.15	28	110	807.69	1300.38	4500	58,51,700.28
4	19	2066.67	3327.34	4500	1,49,73,024.15	29	111	1453.13	2339.54	4500	1,05,27,926.85
5	20	1397.55	2250.06	4500	1,01,25,273.80	30	113	1453.13	2339.54	4500	1,05,27,926.85
6	34	1391.04	2239.58	4500	1,00,78,101.54	31	129	2084.77	3356.48	4500	1,51,04,158.65
7	38	1453.13	2339.54	4500	1,05,27,926.85	32	131	2084.77	3356.48	4500	1,51,04,158.65
8	42	1453.13	2339.54	4500	1,05,27,926.85	33	134	2084.77	3356.48	4500	1,51,04,158.65
9	46	1254.58	2019.87	4500	90,89,433.19	34	136	853.1	1373.5	4500	61,80,736.60
10	48	1939	3121.79	4500	1,40,48,055.00	35	138	1453.13	2339.54	4500	1,05,27,926.85
11	49	1939	3121.79	4500	1,40,48,055.00	36	140	1453.13	2339.54	4500	1,05,27,926.85
12	51	1939	3121.79	4500	1,40,48,055.00	37	150	1100.14	1771.22	4500	79,70,493.36
13	52	1939	3121.79	4500	1,40,48,055.00	38	152	1203.19	1937.14	4500	87,17,123.14
14	53	1939	3121.79	4500	1,40,48,055.00	39	154	1204.86	1939.82	4500	87,29,208.60
15	55	1939	3121.79	4500	1,40,48,055.00	40	156	1333.79	2147.4	4500	96,63,297.47
16	57	1939	3121.79	4500	1,40,48,055.00	41	158	758.61	1221.37	4500	54,96,153.94
17	59	1939	3121.79	4500	1,40,48,055.00	42	160	1596.83	2570.9	4500	1,15,69,033.35
18	61	1939	3121.79	4500	1,40,48,055.00	43	166	1087.93	1751.57	4500	78,82,057.05
19	63	1939	3121.79	4500	1,40,48,055.00	44	168	1091.8	1757.81	4500	79,10,126.50
20	65	1939	3121.79	4500	1,40,48,055.00	45	170	1095.68	1764.04	4500	79,38,195.95
21	69	1129.2	1818.02	4500	81,81,074.65	46	172	1115.45	1795.87	4500	80,81,435.90
22	73	1453.13	2339.54	4500	1,05,27,926.85	47	174	2168.02	3252.03	4500	1,46,34,135.67
23	75	1453.13	2339.54	4500	1,05,27,926.85	48	176	1142.86	1840.01	4500	82,80,054.54
24	77	1374.2	2212.46	4500	99,56,077.41	49	182	1226.71	1975	4500	88,87,510.54
25	85	827.87	1332.87	4500	59,97,895.33	TOTAL SFT		73936.06	118798.57	220500	53,45,93,555.55

Place: Bangalore **Authorized Officer**
Date: 22/12/2025 **L.I.C Housing Finance Limited, Bangalore**

10 killed in drone attack on North Darfur market

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	19	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	29	23	TDS	Melbourne	17	5	LC
Dhaka	27	16	TDS	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	22	SNY	New York	2	-3	SNY
Houston	30	23	TDS	Singapore	27	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	-6	-8	SNY
London	12	8	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

Multiple gunmen kill nine, 10 hurt in late-night South African pub shooting

BEKKERSDAL

South African police gather at the scene of a mass shooting where gunmen killed nine and injured at least 10 in a pub in Bekkersdal, South Africa | AP

NINE people have died and at least 10 others were wounded after a group of gunmen carried out a shooting at a South African pub during the early hours of Sunday, authorities said. The incident occurred just before 1 am in the township of Bekkersdal which is located 46 kilometers (28 miles) west of Johannesburg. It is the second mass shooting to happen in South Africa in three weeks.

About 12 unknown suspects in a white mini-bus and a silver sedan opened fire at pub patrons at KwaNoxolo tavern, in the Tambo section of Bekkersdal and continued to shoot randomly as they fled the scene, according to police. "Some victims were randomly shot in the streets by unknown gunmen," the police said of the incident that left nine people dead and 10 hospitalised.

Major General Fred Kekana, the acting provincial commissioner of Gauteng, told the AP at the scene that the gunmen, some of whom wore balaclavas, had one AK-47 rifle and several nine-millimeter pistols. Police did not release information about the victims, but police spokesperson Brigadier Brenda Muridili confirmed that an e-hailing driver was among those who were caught in the crossfire. *AP*

Israel cabinet OKs 19 new settlements in West Bank, dashing hopes of Palestinian statehood

TEL AVIV

Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, leads a Christmas Eve Mass at the Holy Family Catholic Church in Gaza City | AP

ISRAEL's Cabinet approved a proposal for 19 new settlements in the occupied West Bank, the far-right finance minister said on Sunday.

It is the latest step by the far-right government to push ahead with a construction binge in the occupied territory that further threatens the possibility of a Palestinian state.

The settlements include two that were previously evacuated during a 2005 disengagement plan, according to Finance Minister Betzalel Smotrich, who has pushed a settlement expansion agenda in the West Bank. It brings the total number of new settlements over the past few years to 69, Smotrich wrote on X.

The approval increases the number of settlements in the West Bank by nearly 50% during the current government's tenure. In 2022, there were 141 settlements across the West Bank. After the current approval, there are now 210 settlements, according to Peace Now, an anti-settlement watchdog group. Settlements are widely considered illegal under international law. The approval comes as the US is pushing Israel and Hamas to move ahead with the new phase of the Gaza ceasefire, which took effect October 10. The US-brokered plan calls for a possible "pathway" to a Palestinian state — something the settlements are aimed at preventing. The Cabinet decision included a retroactive legalisation of some previously established settlement outposts or neighbourhoods of existing settlements, and the creation of settlements on land where Palestinians were evacuated, Peace Now said.

It said two of the settlements legaliSed in the latest approval are Kadim and Ganim, which were two of the four West Bank settlements dismantled in 2005 as part of its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. There have been multiple attempts to resettle these, after Israel's far-right government repealed a 2005 act that evacuated the four outposts and barred Israelis from reentering the areas in March 2023. Israel captured the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza — areas claimed by the Palestinians for a future state — in the 1967 war. It has settled over 500,000 Jews in the West Bank, in addition to over 200,000 more in contested east Jerusalem. Israel's government is dominated by far-right proponents of the settler movement, including Smotrich and Cabinet Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who oversees the nation's police force. Settler expansion has been compounded by a surge of attacks against Palestinians in the West Bank in recent months.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Health Ministry in Ramallah said two Palestinians, including a 16-year-old, were killed in clashes with the Israeli military on Saturday night in the northern part of the occupied West Bank. The Israeli military said two militants were killed after attacking troops in Qabatiya and Silat al-Harithiya on Saturday night. *AP*

SBI

STATE BANK OF INDIA
RAJAJINAGAR BRANCH (20348)
200/Y, 50th Cross, 12th Main, 3rd Block, Rajajinagar, Bengalore-560010.
E mai: sbi.20348@sbi.co.in

NOTICE FOR SALE OF VEHICLES BY E-AUCTION on 30.12.2025

Notice to public is hereby given to the effect that the vehicle described herein will be sold by **State Bank of India, Rajajinagar Branch (20348)** by holding E-Auction on the date and time mentioned in this notice is "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION"

Sl. No	Name of the Borrower	Loan A/c. NO.	Vehicle Model	Reg. No.	Reserve Price	Seizure Agent
1	G K Industries	43390206926	Tata Motors LPT 1212 53 / CBC (CBC - Chassis with Cabin) 2024 Model	KA 51 AK 7426	Rs. 15,42,000/-	NPA Squad
2				KA 51 AK 7423	Rs. 15,42,000/-	
3				KA 51 AK 7422	Rs. 15,42,000/-	
4				KA 51 AK 7424	Rs. 15,42,000/-	
5				KA 51 AK 7425	Rs. 15,42,000/-	

Date & Time of E-Auction: 30.12.2025, 10.00 AM to 1.00 PM (with unlimited Extensions of 5 minutes each). **EMD:** 10% of each vehicle's Reserve Price as mentioned above. (EMD is Refundable for unsuccessful bidder) For inspection of above vehicles contact below **Mentioned Agency: NPA Squad Contact Person:** Mr. Shashank Mob: **9663044559.**

Terms and conditions : 1. E-Auction is being held on "As is where is condition" and the Bank is not responsible for condition or any other fact affecting the vehicles **2.** The E Auction will take place through portal **https://baanknet.com** on 30.12.2025. **3.** The intending purchaser/bidder is required to submit the amount to the valet with **https://baanknet.com** on or before 27.12.2025, 4PM and register their name at **https://baanknet.com. 4.** For detailed procedure and terms and conditions of E-Auttion, interested bidder may visit **https://baanknet.com** & download business rule documents. **5.** All the above vehicles are parked at respective agencies yard as mentioned above. **6.** Willing bidders can inspect the vehicle(s) at the respective yard mentioned above & give best quote (over and above the minimum price) **7.** The bidders have to increase the bidding amount by minimum Rs.5000/- above Reserve price. **8.** Balance of bid amount by the successful bidder should be remitted within 7 days, i.e. 06.01.2026, 04:00 PM failing which EMD amount stars forfeited. **9.** Successful bidders cannot back-out for any reason. **10.** Bank reserves the right to cancel or postpone the auction without prior notice. **11.** For further details you may contact Authorised Officer, Contact No.080-23151047, M:-9448998436.

Place Bengaluru, **Sd/-**
Date:20.12.2025 **Authorized Officer**

US PURSUING ANOTHER OIL TANKER OFF VENEZUELA

WASHINGTON

THE US Coast Guard on Sunday was pursuing another sanctioned oil tanker in the Caribbean Sea as the Trump administration appeared to be intensifying its targeting of such vessels connected to Venezuelan government.

The pursuit of the tanker, which was confirmed by a US official briefed on the operation, comes after the US administration announced Saturday it had seized a tanker for the second time in less than two weeks.

The official, who was not authorised to comment publicly about the ongoing operation and spoke on the condition of anonymity, said Sunday's pursuit involved "a sanctioned dark fleet vessel that is part of Venezuela's illegal sanctions evasion." The official said the vessel was flying a false flag and under a judicial seizure order. The Coast Guard's pursuit of the tanker was first reported by Reuters. Saturday's predawn seizure of a Panama-flagged vessel called Centuries targeted what the White House described as a "falsely flagged vessel operating as part of the Venezuelan shadow fleet to traffic stolen oil."

The Coast Guard, with assistance from the Navy, seized a sanctioned tanker called Skipper on December 10, another part of the shadow fleet of tankers that the US says operates on the fringes of the law to move sanctioned cargo. It was not even flying a nation's flag when it was seized by the Coast Guard. Donald Trump, after that first seizure, said that the US would carry out a "blockade" of Venezuela. *AP*

16 files disappear from Justice Dept's Epstein case release

NEW YORK

AT least 16 files disappeared from the Justice Department's public webpage for documents related to Jeffrey Epstein — including a photograph showing President Donald Trump — less than a day after they were posted, with no explanation from the government and no notice to the public.

The missing files, which were available on Friday and no longer accessible by Saturday, included images of paintings depicting nude women, and one showing a series of photographs along a credenza and in drawers. In that image, inside a drawer among other photos, was a photograph of Trump, alongside Epstein, Melania Trump and Epstein's longtime associate Ghislaine Maxwell.

The Justice Department didn't answer questions Saturday about why the files disappeared but said in a post on X that "photos and other materials will continue being reviewed and redacted consistent with the law in an abundance of caution as we receive additional information."

Online, the unexplained missing files fueled speculation about what was taken down and why the public was not notified, compounding long-standing intrigue about Epstein and the powerful figures who surrounded him. Democrats on the House Oversight Committee pointed to the missing image featuring a Trump photo in a post on X, writing: "What else is being covered up? We need transparency for the American public." The episode deepened concerns that had already emerged from the Justice Department's much-anticipated document release.

The tens of thousands of pages made public offered little new insight into Epstein's crimes or the prosecutorial decisions that allowed him to avoid serious federal charges for years, while omitting some of the most closely watched materials, including FBI interviews with victims and internal Justice Department memos on charging decisions.

Some of the most consequential records expected about Epstein are nowhere to be found in the Justice Department's initial disclosures, which span tens of thousands of pages. Missing are FBI interviews and Justice Department memos explaining Epstein's 2008 plea to a minor state charge. *AP*

Thousands gather at Bondi Beach to mourn antisemitic attack victims

MELBOURNE: Thousands of mourners gathered under tight police security at Sydney's iconic Bondi Beach on Sunday evening to mark a week since two gunmen targeting a Jewish festival killed 15 people. Since then, Australian governments have been galvanized into action on countering antisemitism and tightening already strict national gun controls. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, his predecessors John Howard and Scott Morrison, and Governor-General Sam Mostyn, who represents Australia's head of state King Charles III, were among the dignitaries at the commemoration that drew more than 10,000 people. "This has to be the nadir of antisemitism in our country," New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies President David Ossip told the crowd. "This has to be the moment when light starts to eclipse the darkness." The crowd booed Albanese when Ossip acknowledged his presence. Opposition leader Sussan Ley, who had said that a conservative government led by her would reverse a decision made by Albanese's center-left Labor Party government this year to recognise a Palestinian state, was cheered. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has lashed out at Albanese over the attack on the Hannukah celebration, saying "your call for a Palestinian state pours fuel on the antisemitic fire." Netanyahu has repeatedly sought to link widespread calls for a Palestinian state, and criticism of Israel's military offensive in Gaza following Hamas' 2023 attack, to growing incidents of antisemitism worldwide. Images of the victims, aged 10 to 87, were projected at the commemoration. "Waltzing Matilda" was sung in honor of the youngest victim, whose Ukrainian parents gave their Australian-born daughter what they described as the most Australian name they knew. ap

EXPRESS READ

France set to replace Charles de Gaulle

ABU DHABI: French President Emmanuel Macron has given the final go-ahead to replace France's nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle, which entered service in 2001 and is the only such vessel outside the US Navy. The decision follows studies launched in 2018 and comes despite budget deadlock and debate over defence priorities. The new nuclear-powered carrier will be far larger, displacing nearly 80,000 tonnes, measuring about 310 metres, and carrying 30 fighter jets with a crew of 2,000. Macron announced the move while visiting French troops in the UAE.

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) | **Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.**

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Mr. Nagaraj E, 2) Mrs. Yashodamma N, 3) Mr. Ravi N	Loan Account No. 32909610000122 32909410000282 Loan Amount: Rs.85,00,000/- Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing Site No.290, Present Form-B Sl No.3830, Old Katha No.427/7-2(a), situated at Vijinapura Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under the Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Bangalore, Measuring about East to West 40 Feet and North to South 60 Feet in all Measuring 2400 Sq.feet along with RCC roofed residential building constructed thereon consisting of Ground and First floor, Ground floor measuring 750 Sq.ft built up area, First Floor measuring 750 Sq.ft built up area, in all totally Measuring 1500 Sq.ft built up area, together with mosaic Flooring, Wooden Doors and Steel Windows, along with basic civil amenities such Electricity, Water and Sanitary facilities thereon, together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and **Bounded on the: East by:** Site No.291, **West by:** 20 wide Road, **North by:** 20 wide Road, **South by:** Part of Site No.254.	Date of NPA: 01-11-2025 Demand Notice Date: 18-12-2025	Rs.80,41,300.50 (Rupees Eighty Lakh Forty One Thousand Three Hundred and Fifty Paisa Only) due as on 11-12-2025
2	1) Mr. Ravikumar J, 2) Mr. Manoj R	Loan Account No. 45380430000229 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of for Property bearing No.14, Kengeri Village Khatha No.191/3, BBMP Khatha Sl.No.64, Property No.191/3/14 E-PID No.5857484012, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet in all measuring 1200 Sq.feet, situated Kengeri Village, Kengeri TMC, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and **Bounded on: Eastby:** Earlier Property belongs to Jayaram, Presently belongs to J.Nagaraju, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Property No.13, **South by:** Property No.15.	Date of NPA: 02-12-2025 Demand Notice Date: 17-12-2025	Rs.5,19,937.36 (Rupees Five Lakh Nineteen Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Seven and Thirty Six Paisa Only) due as on 11-12-2025
3	1) Mr. Manoj N, 2) Mrs. Nagarathnamma	Loan Account No. 45350530000073 45359410001490 Loan Amount: Rs.4,20,000/- Rs.1,14,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of property No.153, Sl.No.13, measuring East to West 27 feet and North to South 21 feet, situated at Arebommanahalli Village, Arebommanahalli Grama Panchayath, Thyamagondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and **Bounded on: East by:** Road, **West by:** Remaining Land, **North by:** Remaining Land, **South by:** Road.	Date of NPA: 02-12-2025 Demand Notice Date: 18-12-2025	Rs.5,04,953.50 (Rupees Five Lakh Four Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Three and Fifty Paisa Only) due as on 11-12-2025
4	1) Mrs. Savithramma, 2) Mrs. Bhavana N, 3) Mrs. Varun K	Loan Account No. 33639430001607 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing No., E-Katha ID No.152900401500500018, situated at Kailancha Village, Ramanagara Taluk, Ramanagara District, presently comes under the limits of Kailancha Village Panchayath and **Bounded by the: East by:** House of Mutturaju, **West by:** Road, **North by:** House of Nagamma, **South by:** House of Arasappa. Measuring East to West: (35.9+35.6)/Z and North to South: (6.8+7.0)/2 Mtrs.	Date of NPA: 02-12-2025 Demand Notice Date: 16-12-2025	Rs.2,10,379.61 (Rupees Two Lakh Ten Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Nine and Sixty One Paisas Only) due as on 11-12-2025
5	1) Mr. Madhu V R, 2) Mrs. Neelamma	Loan Account No. 45350430001226 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the PID No. 152900103200600144, Khaneshmari No.147/4/268 Measuring East to West 6.5 Meter, and North to South 7.5 Meter, situated at virupakshipura Village, Virupakshi Grama Panchayath, Virupakshihobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** House of Puttaswamy, S/o. Mariyayya, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Own Road, **South by:** House of Boramma, W/o. Kariyaiah.	Date of NPA: 02-12-2025 Demand Notice Date: 17-12-2025	Rs.5,16,180.35 (Rupees Five Lakh Sixteen Thousand One Hundred Eighty and Thirty Five Paisas Only) due as on 11-12-2025
6	1) Mrs. Ramesh M, 2) Mrs. Lalithamma R	Loan Account No. 46459630000170 46459410000338 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All the piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.99/40, Katha ID No.150300401500300111, situated at Obalahalli Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk and Bangalore Rural District and **Bounded by the: East by:** Byatesh House and Vacant Place, **West by:** Muniyappa House, **North by:** Sri Chowdeshwari Temple, **South by:** Government Road. Measuring East to West: 9.144 meters and North to South: 6.096 meters. Total Site Measuring 74.32 Sq.meters, and Building 55.74 Sq.meters.	Date of NPA: 02-12-2025 Demand Notice Date: 17-12-2025	Rs.8,20,319.91 (Rupees Eight Lakh Twenty Thousand Three Hundred Nineteen and Ninety One Paisa Only) due as on 11-12-2025

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 22.12.2025, Place: Bangalore & Bangalore Rural **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

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pnb Housing Finance Limited Ghar Ki Baat

Regd. Office:- 9th Floor, Antrakish Bhavan, 22, K G Marg, New Delhi-110001,Ph: 011-23357171, 23357172, 23705414, Web: www.pnbhousing.com; Branch Address:-No. 40, Jodh Tower 3rd Floor, 27th Cross 5th Main Road, Jayanagar 4th Block, Bangalore 560 011.

POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **PNB Housing Finance Ltd**. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & in compliance of Rule 8(1) of Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice/s on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/date of receipt of the said notice/s. The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each account. The borrower/s in par- ticular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of **PNB Housing Finance Ltd.**, for the amount and interest thereon as per loan agreement. The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S. No.	Branch	Loan A/c No(s)	Name of Borrower /Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	Amount Outstanding	Date of Possession Taken	Description of the Property/ies mortgaged
1	Mallesh-waram	HOU/MLS/ 0816/308299	Mr. C Ravindra Babu, Mrs. C Vasanthamma and Mrs. Vahila Priyanka Kopparapu	09/09/ 2025	Rs. 82,99,192/- (Rupees Eighty Two Lakhs Ninety Nine Thousand One Hundred and Ninety Nine Only)	17-12-2025 (Symbolic Possession)	"All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Old No. 14, New "Municipal No. 31, in Survey Nos. 102/1 and 135/2, Situated at 4th Cross, "Nethaji Nagar, Mathikere, Bangalore, PID No. 4-87-31, BBMP Ward No.4. "Measuring: East to West 40 Feet, North to South 30 Feet In all measuring 1200 Square Feet. Together with all appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: "East By : Site No. 9"West By : Road,"North By : Site No.15,"South By : Site No. 13."Along with 3000 sq. ft R.C.C. roofed building Ground, first and second "floor red oxide floor, with basic civic amenities."

Date:17.12.2025, Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorised Officer, PNB Housing Finance Limited**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

Canara Bank, ARM Branch I
2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001.

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable / Movable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provisio to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Movable and Immovable property mortgaged/chrged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **23.01.2026 (10.30 AM to 11.00 AM),** for recovery of **Rs. 1,98,32,038.25/-** with further interest and cost thereon due to the ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from **1. M/s Sudharshan Enterprises, Rep by its Partner : Mrs. Rohini Boppana and Babu R Chetan Reddy,** 2321, 17th Cross 27th Main, Sector HSR Layout, Bangalore-560098, **2. Mr. Babu R Chetan Reddy** S/o. B N Ravi Chandra Reddy, Sri Rashi, no. 1172, 5th main, 7th Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore- 560102. **3. Mrs. Rohini Boppana** W/o. Babu R Chetan Reddy, Sri Rashi no. 1172, 5th main 7th Sector HSR Layout, Bangalore- 560102. **4. Mr. B N Ravi Chandra Reddy** S/o. Lt B N N Reddy, Sri Rashi no 1172, 5th Main, 7th Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore- 560102. **5. Mrs. Santoshi Reddy** W/o. B N Ravi Chandra Reddy, Sri Rashi no. 1172, 5th main 7th Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore- 560102.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s. PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentionedin the said challan on or before **22.01.2026, 5.00 pm.** **(Rs. in Lacs)**

Lot	Description of the immovable/ movable assets	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental value Rs.
1	All that piece and Parcel of residential Apartment, Flat No. 308, 2nd Floor at "MAGNUM PRIDE" Apartment, Block B, 27th Cross, 19th Main, Sector 2, HSR Layout, Bengaluru-560034 with a super built up area of 1098 Sq.Ft. undivided share of 330 Sq.Ft. and bounded by : East by: Land bearing Sy No. 55/7 of Mr. Ramesh, West by: Flat No. 307, North by: Flat No. 306, South by: Flat No. 310. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.90399150 Longitude- 77.6473214**	77.70	7.77	1.00

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in **Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com)** or E-Wallet of **M/s. PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal and may contact **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No. 080-25310066, 8598009010 and 9483544116** during office hours on any working day.

Date: 19.12.2025 **Sd/- Authorised Offier**
Place: Bangalore **Canara Bank**

₹5,000 CR investment the biogas sector is expected to see in 2026-27, buoyed by strong interest from investors, the Indian Biogas Association said

New NPS rules: More flexibility, higher corpus

Major changes include reduction in annuity purchase to 20% of corpus, lower lock-in, and longer investment tenure

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

THE Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has rolled out a series of changes to the National Pension System (NPS) with the aim of providing subscribers greater flexibility at the time of retirement and ensuring a higher corpus. Some of the major changes under the revised framework include a reduction in mandatory annuity purchase to 20% of the accumulated corpus, a lower lock-in requirement, and a longer investment tenure.

Lower annuity mandate

Currently, an NPS subscriber had to mandatorily annuitise 40% of the corpus. This meant that at the time of exit, only 60% of the corpus could be withdrawn as a lump sum, while the remaining 40% was paid out as a monthly pension. This requirement has long deterred investors from opting for NPS. The PFRDA has now changed the rules, halving the mandatory annuitised amount to 20% of the corpus, and that too only when the total pension corpus exceeds ₹12 lakh.

If the total corpus is below ₹8 lakh, the entire amount can be withdrawn as a lump sum.

If the retirement corpus is between ₹8 lakh and ₹12 lakh, the PFRDA has introduced a systematic unit redemption (SUR) facility. This allows subscribers to withdraw their savings in a phased manner over a minimum period of six years, enabling a lump-sum withdrawal of up to ₹6 lakh, with the balance paid through SUR and without annuity requirement.

SUR is also permitted in the

case of a subscriber's death, under the same corpus limits and withdrawal structure. "The practical benefit is smoother monthly or quarterly income during early retirement, predictable redemptions aligned with living expenses, and less stress about market timing," said Chakravarthy V., cofounder and executive director, Prime Wealth Finserv Pvt. Ltd.

Longer tenure

The maximum age up to which subscribers can remain invested in the NPS has been increased to 85 years, extending the accumulation phase well beyond the current limit. "The only constant in the market is volatility, and the only antidote to volatility is investment tenure. Long-tenor investing helps portfolios ride out short-term market dips. Hence, the option to stay invested till 85 is a positive move," said Vivek Iyer, partner and financial services risk leader, Grant Thornton Bharat.

"Long-term investing provides a strong savings pool for the government to mobilise for large infrastructure investments over the long term," he added.

More exit options

While subscribers choose to continue investing until 85, exit options are also available after completing 15 years of subscription or upon attaining 60 years of age, superannuation, or retirement—whichever comes first. A subscriber will have three exit options.

"The impact of having three exit options is that small savers get full liquidity, mid-size savers get a blend of cash and structured payouts, and large ones retain an income floor through annuities or systematic withdrawals. This gives retirees greater control over how and when they access their money," said Chakravarthy V of Prime Wealth Finserv Pvt. Ltd.

IN CONVERSATION

RAVI KUMAR JHA
Chief executive officer, LIC Mutual Fund

'Rs1 trillion target is big but we are pushing hard to achieve this'

LIC Mutual Fund, which despite having the huge financial strength, brand salience and reach of its parents LIC and Nomura of Japan, has been struggling for long to make to the big league, is on an aggressive growth path. **Ravi Kumar Jha**, chief executive of LIC MF, tells TNIE's **Benn Kochuveedan** that by the end of the current fiscal the fund house is eyeing an asset under management (AUM) of ₹1 lakh crore but would be perfectly happy if they touch ₹75,000-80,000 crore. ***Excerpts***:

What is the trigger that you think is missing despite growth acceleration?
Probably we've not been focused on ourselves. But if you look at our growth in the past two-and-half years, you would see we have grown fantastically. From an AUM of ₹16,526 crore in March 2023, we are at close to ₹46,000 crore now. That's a growth rate of 170%.

So, what is the target for this March?
After thorough discussions and planning we've given ourselves an audacious target of achieving the ₹1 trillion AUM by March 2026. If we are able to touch near ₹1 trillion also we would be happy as that would reflect the trust and brand saliency of our parent.

How confident are you of achieving the target given that you've only four months?
I know ₹1 trillion is an audacious target but we are pushing ourselves hard to achieve this. If we could hit ₹75,000-80,000 crore also, it will appear to be very good. Our sales team and the teams from our equity and other main schemes are also confident of making it big.

If we could hit ₹75,000-80,000 crore also, it will appear to be very good. Our sales team and the teams from our equity and other main schemes are also confident of making it big

If you look at the lack of focus which you attributed as the reason for the poor show, is it not mainly because of the inconsistency in the top management as LIC keeps changing the CEO every third year? Does not such short-term leadership contribute to the lack of interest in delivery because whether you perform or not you are not there for a second term?
Need not be. As I have said, we've not been focusing on ourselves, which is to say not focusing on return on our funds, was the main reason for our not so good track record. But as our AUM growth shows now, that's behind us. In the mutual fund industry, the main point is returns and everything else is secondary. Be it equity or debt, returns should be good. If that's good, that's the engine of growth. That means you need really brilliant fund managers and a very strong sales team. Thankfully, we've all that in place now who can continue to generate good returns.

So the frequent change (every third year a new CEO) in the management has not been the drag on your performance...
I don't think so. Because, since we are a private entity, people come and go. Attrition rate is very high in this industry. Today you are with me, tomorrow you may leave me and you go to some other AMC who will be giving you better pay, better package. So people are always being hunted by other AMCs.

But does not having a CEO for a longer term give consistency in demand, in target, in performance?
I agree with you to some extent. But the main reason as I told you is about fund performance. The quality of fund performance has to be one of the bests. And there should be consistent good returns.

That means you didn't have good fund managers in the past?
See, fund managers are also human beings. They take bet on certain stocks, sectors, thinking that that will perform. Sometimes it performs, sometimes it doesn't perform.

MONEY-WISE

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR WEALTH

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

WEALTH destruction often happens subtly through everyday habits, poor decisions, and overlooked financial pitfalls. Here are some of the most common "wealth destroyers" that can erode your net worth over time.

- High-interest debt (credit cards, or online app loans)

Why it's a destroyer: Carrying balances on credit cards or other high-interest debt (often 40% p.a.+ interest charges) leads to compounding interest payments that could otherwise go toward savings or investments.

Steps to save yourself: Create and stick to a budget to track income and expenses.

- Impulse purchases and lifestyle inflation–

Why it's a destroyer: Unplanned buys, driven by ads or habits, drain budgets. This includes "keeping up with the Joneses" through peer pressure, where we overspend to impress others, leading to unnecessary expenses that balloon over time. Steps to save yourself: Shop with a pre-made list to curb spontaneity. Set strict budgets for social outings and limit social media exposure if it triggers spending.

- Inflation

Why it's a destroyer: Rising prices erode purchasing power of your money. For example, what cost ₹1 in 2015 might cost over ₹2 today due to inflation, diminishing savings if they're not growing fast enough.

Steps to save yourself: Invest in assets that outpace inflation, such as stocks, real estate, or diversified funds. Consider tax-advantaged vehicles like retirement accounts.

- Unnecessary taxes: Income, capital gains, taxes, etc. can claim a large portion of your earnings and growth, especially if defer tax-efficient strategies, consult a tax advisor for deductions and credits.
- Hidden fees and conservative investments

Investment fees (2-3% annually) can reduce returns by 20-30% over decades. Similarly, overly conservative portfolios (e.g, FDs at 4% vs shares at 8%) limit growth—₹10,000 invested conservatively might grow to ₹202,000 in 30 years, versus ₹508,000 in shares.

Steps to save yourself: Opt for low-cost index funds or ETFs. Diversify across stocks, bonds, and sectors for balanced risk. Start investing early to leverage compounding, even with small amounts.

- Oversised purchases

Expensive cars depreciate rapidly, often exceeding 20% of income and tying up cash. Upgrading to bigger homes due to lifestyle creep increases debt, bills, and maintenance, creating a "golden cage" that limits financial flexibility.

Steps to save yourself: Keep vehicle and housing costs under 20% of income. Calculate total ownership costs (including opportunity cost of tied-up capital) before buying. Opt for used cars or modest homes that align with long-term goals.

- Career stagnation and delayed investing staying in a "good enough" job without scaling income through raises or switches caps earning potential.

What more to do:

Educate yourself: Don't outsource financial decisions learn basics to avoid bad advice.

MONEY MATTERS

WHY MUTUAL FUNDS NEED AMBITION TO EXPAND

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THERE is a tendency in the mutual fund industry to measure performance based on assets under management. The AUM of the industry has grown to ₹80 lakh crore in no time, gloat most mutual fund executives. It is not a small achievement. A year ago, it was just ₹63 lakh crore, according to the industry data. It was merely ₹30 lakh crore five years ago.

However, AUM growth does not give the whole picture. The number of unique investors in the mutual fund industry is less than six crore. It has grown by 10-11% year over year. However, it is still below potential for a fast-growing economy like India, where the population is nearing 150 crore. That means barely 4% of the country's population is touched by the mutual fund industry. To add to that, 80% of investors are concentrated in the top 30 cities. In fact, Maharashtra alone accounts for 30-40% of the investors.

Mutual funds are a vehicle for ordinary people to organize their personal finances. They offer exposure to asset classes such as equities, debt, commodities, and real estate or infrastructure. There is a high-decibel campaign run by the Association of Mutual Funds in India, an industry body. Individual companies also run their own awareness campaigns and investor education programmes. Some large mutual fund asset management companies, such as HDFC Asset Management, Nippon Life India, and Aditya Birla Sun Life Asset Management, are also listed on stock exchanges. Last week, ICICI Prudential Asset Management, the largest by unique investors, listed at a premium to the IPO price. Investors are betting that mutual fund companies will continue to grow rapidly. However, the growth could face risks under an asset-under-management-oriented approach. At some stage, the mutual fund industry must put its heads together and focus on the way forward to expand its reach.

Gold and real estate obsession

When cola giant Coca-Cola returned to India in the 90s, rival Pepsi had already established itself as a soft drink leader. They called water, lemon water, and tea their top three competitors. The idea was to focus on category growth rather than replicate the global rivalry in India's top cities. The beverage industry has undergone significant changes over the past two decades. There are new players too now, and the reach is probably in every district. In the world of investment, Indians consider real estate and physical gold possession as real wealth. The competition among mutual funds is not against other mutual funds. It is against a national mindset not to trust anything else as an investment. That poses a significant risk to the mutual fund industry.

The mutual fund industry is resting on its laurels, measured by assets under management. At the same time, the industry needs government and regulatory support to grow. Over the past few quarters, the government has managed to keep inflation in check. It has also lowered direct and indirect taxes to leave more money in households' hands. That should leave some surplus in the household budget.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India last week revised the way mutual funds incentivize their distribution channels. A reduction in the expense ratio lowers the cost of owning a mutual fund for unitholders. The industry may not appreciate that the distributor network manages over three-quarters of mutual fund assets under management. The incentives for mutual fund distributions should also be linked to the growth in the number of unique investor accounts, rather than just to the value of investments. That requires more ambition than now.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

VBL to buy 100% in Twizza for ₹1,119 cr

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

VARUN Beverages Limited (VBL), PepsiCo's sole bottler in India and its largest outside the US, has entered into an agreement to acquire a 100% stake in Twizza Proprietary, a South African manufacturer and distributor of non-alcoholic beverages, for an enterprise value of ZAR 2,095 million (nearly ₹1,118.7 crore).

The acquisition will be executed through VBL's South African subsidiary, The Beverages Company Proprietary Limited (Bevco), and is aimed at expanding the company's market share in the region.

Through the deal, VBL will gain control of three additional manufacturing facilities located in Cape Town, Queenstown and Middelburg. These plants are backward-integrated and include five preform lines and one closure line, enhancing operational efficiency. For the financial year ended June 30, 2025, Twizza reported a turnover of ZAR 1,689 million (about ₹901.9 crore) and sold nearly 71 million 8oz cases.

VBL to gain control of 3 mfg units in South Africa

Through the deal, Varun Beverages will gain control of 3 additional manufacturing facilities located in Cape Town, Queenstown and Middelburg. These plants are backward-integrated and include five preform lines and one closure line, enhancing operational efficiency

The transaction is likely to be completed on or before June 30, 2026, subject to customary regulatory approvals from competition authorities in South Africa, Botswana and Eswatini. Upon completion, Twizza will operate as a step-down subsidiary of Varun Beverages.

Africa has emerged as a key growth driver for VBL in 2025. While domestic volumes in India remained flat during the first nine months of 2025 due to heavy rainfall, international volumes grew 9%, led by African markets. International operations contributed to an improved gross margin of 56.7% in Q3 CY25, supported partly by a higher water sales mix.

VBL operates across multiple African countries with varying rights. It holds franchise rights in Morocco, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and distribution rights in Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique and Madagascar. The company is in the process of incorporating a wholly owned subsidiary in Kenya for manufacturing and distribution.

GMR Airports acquires 49.9% stake in DDFS

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

GMR Airports (GAL) has tightened its grip on India's travel retail sector by acquiring a 49.90% equity stake in Delhi Duty Free Services Private Limited (DDFS).

The stake was purchased from Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), another subsidiary of the company, for an aggregate consideration of about ₹183 crore. Following this transaction, GMR Airports' total shareholding in DDFS has increased to 66.93%, up from its previous indirect holding.

The move comes as GAL, which operates under the brand name GMR AERO, transitions from a traditional airport operator to a consumer-first platform.

India's exports to US see rebound amid rising tariffs

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

IN a year defined by major trade volatility, India's exports to the US have undergone a remarkable two-step transformation. As per a new report from the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), 85% of India's US exports followed a distinct pattern of a sharp mid-year decline followed by a resilient partial recovery by November 2025.

The GTRI analysis highlights that total exports to the US fell 20.7%, dropping from $8.8 billion in May to $7.0 billion in November. The fall peaked in September when shipments hit a trough of $5.5 billion— a 37.7% fall from May levels. However, between September and November, exports rebounded by 27.3%. GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava noted that this recovery occurred even as the US maintained a steep 50% tariff on many Indian goods. "The drop between May and September likely reflected the shock and uncertainty created by impending tariff hikes," Srivastava explained. He added that once the higher tariffs became certain, exporters and US buyers adjusted by renegotiating prices, absorbing costs, and restocking for the holiday season.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

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M.G. Road Bengaluru-560001
Ph:080-25310066, E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 07.01.2026 (10.30 AM to 11.30 AM), for recovery of Rs. 1,05,16,78,588.28/-** as on **18.12.2025** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from (1) M/S POLYBOND ORGANICS PVT LTD "Narang Chambers"** Unit No.4 & 5, 4th Floor Corp No.2/15 & 16 Narasimharaja Road, Bangalore-560002. **(2) Mr. Dinesh V Baliga,** No.1268, II Stage, BTM Layout, Bangalore-560076. **(3) Mr. Balakrishna V Baliga,** No.35, Sneha, 4th Cross, Venkatadri Layout, Banneraghatta Road, Bangalore-560076. **(4) Mr. Harish V Baliga,** No.1267,Gururaj,I Main, BTM Layout II Stage, Bangalore 560076. **(5) Mr. Jagadish V Baliga,** No.35, Sneha, 4th Cross, Venkatadri Layout, Banneraghatta Road, Bangalore-560076. **(6) Mrs. Divya Baliga,** No.35, Sneha,4th Cross, Venkatadri Layout, Banneraghatta Road, Bangalore-560076. **(7) Mr. N V Pavan Ram,** No.35, Sneha, 4th Cross, Venkatadri Layout, Banneraghatta Road, Bangalore-560076.
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **06.01.2026 - 5.00 pm.**

(₹.In Lakhs)

Lot	Description of the immovable assets:	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1	Commercial Apartment consisting of unit No.4, 4th Floor Sub No.2/15 in the building known as "Narang Chambers" with PID No.45-47-2/15 Situated at property No.2/3. Ward No.47, Narasimharaja Road, Bangalore-560002, measuring super built up area of 415 sq ft with undivided share of 89.52 sq ft and flat bounded on North by : Narasimharaja Road, South by: Common passage, East by : Unit sub numbered 2/16 and West by : Unit sub numbered 2/14 and site bounded at : North by : Narasimharaja Road, South by: Conservancy Lane, East by: Private properly and West by : Kumbaragundi property. **Coordinates of the property Latitude - 12.9635787, Longitude - 77.5843143**	₹. 27.00	₹. 2.70	₹. 1.00
	Commercial Apartment consisting of unit No.5. 4th floor Sub No.2/16 in the building known as "Narang Chambers" Situated at property No.2/3, Ward No.47 Narasimharaja Road, Bangalore - 560002 measuring super built up area of 965 sq ft with undivided share of 203.78 sq ft and flat bounded on : North by : Narasimharaja Road, South by : Unit sub numbered as 2/17, East by: Private Property and West by : Unit sub numbered 2/15 and Site, bounded at : North by: Narasimharaja Road, South by : Conservancy Lane, East by : Private property and West by: Kumbaragundi property. **Coordinates of the property Latitude - 12.9635787, Longitude - 77.5843143**	₹. 64.00	₹. 6.40	₹. 1.00
	TOTAL	₹. 91.00	₹. 9.10	

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, , Ph. No. 08025310066,8598009010 and 9483544116 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 20.12.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

LIC HFL

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

1st Floor, Jeevan Managal Building, Hayes Road, Bengaluru -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Office of the M/S, LIC Housing Finance Limited the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of security Interest(enforcement) Rule 2002 issued demand notice on below mentioned date calling upon the borrower/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrower having failed to repay the amount hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act with rule 9 of the said rules on below mentioned date.
The Borrower and the public in general are here by cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with property will be subject to the charge of M/s. LIC Housing Finance Limited for an amount notice mentioned below and interest thereon,
The Borrower attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of the said ACT, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower, Loan No & Possession Taken Date	Demand Notice Date	Notce Amount	Description of the Property
MS. SOUGANYA SAMUEL JOHN MR. SAMUEL JOHN (GPA HOLDER) Loan A/c No. 411600004099 Symbolic Possession Date: 18/12/2025	28/12/2023	Rs. 8836324.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the property immovable property bearing House on Site No.11, in the property No.26, Khata No.409, situated at Sonnathammanahalli @ Thambuchetty Palya, Krishnarajpura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, presently comes under the Bruhat Mahanagar Palike, Bangalore, measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 30 feet, total measuring 1500 Sq.feet and bounded on: East by: Site No.10, West by: Road, North by: Vijaya Bank Colony, South by: Site No.12.
MR. ANANDA KUMAR Loan A/c No. 411900014216 Symbolic Possession Date:17/12/2025	19/08/2025	Rs. 4032360.00	SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of property bearing B.B.M.P. Khata No.1446 Municipal No.62, measuring 2 acre 23 guntas formed out of Converted land bearing Sy.No.55/2, after Phodi new Sy. No.55/6, measuring 2 acre and 23 guntas (converted from agricultural to residential purpose vide the order of Deputy Commissioner, ALN:SR:340/2012-13 dated 11-02-2013) situated at Varthur Village, Varthur Hobli, Banmgalore East Taluk, Bangalore, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: East: Sorahunise village road in this Sy.No.55/6, West: Sy.No.42 and Government land, North: Portion of SY.No.55/2 and Sy.No.55/4, South: Sy.No.55/3. SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY : 381.9 Sq. Ft undivided interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule 'A' above. SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY : Flat bearing No: C-203, Block –C in the Second floor, measuring 1005 Sq. Feet of super built up Area containing Two Bedrooms with vitrified flooring together with One Covered Car parking Space, including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase, contained in the multistoried building to be constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property known as "MIDTOWN OPULENT".
MR. KAUSHIK GOVINDARAJU Loan A/c No. 410100011796 Symbolic Possession Date:18/12/2025	29/04/2025	Rs. 2475831.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the Vacant site bearing Gramatana Old Khata No.344, Present Kaneshmari E-Khata Proeprty No.150300301300920056, measuring East to West: 14.029 meters and North to South: 9.4488 meter, in all measuring 132.55 sq.meters, situated at Chikkabelamangala Village, Doddabelamangala Village Panchayat, Doddabelamangala Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on the: East by:Road, West by: Property of Ashwathanarayana, North by: Property of Mudlaiah, South by: Passage.
MS. LALITHA BAI MR. SHIVAKUMARA SWAMY M S Loan A/c No. 410100012412 Physical Possession Date:18/12/2025	14/10/2025	Rs. 3685614.00	SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of Residentially converted undeveloped land bearing Survey No. 32/1 measuring 3 acres 01guntas, vide Conversion Official Memorandum No. ALN(NAY)SR 80/2013-2014 dated 08/04/2014 comes under Ward No.1, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, Yelahanka Zone Situated at Govindapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the: East by : Railway Line in Survey No. 32/2, West by: Survey No. 23, North by : Survey No. 49 & 50, South by : Survey No. 25 and 31 SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential Vacant Site bearing Site No. 21, formed in Sy. No. 32/1, The larger Extent of the land having a BBMP A Katha No. 64/32/1 , Ward No. 01, Land is duly converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose vide conversion order No. ALN: (NAY) SR:80/2013-14, dated 08/04/2014 issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, in the Layout known as "NANDANA VANA" situated at Govindapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore 560064 ,site Measuring EAST TO WEST (40+43.7)/2 and NORTH TO SOUTH (42.5+59.8)/2 SQFT (East to West towards Northern Side by 40 feet & Southern side by 42.5 Feet & Western side by 59.8 Feet), In all measuring 2000 Sq.feet and bounded on the:- East by: Road, West by: Site No. 43, North by: Site No. 22, South by: Road.
MS. ANITHA SAMUEL JOHN MR. SAMUEL JOHN (GPA HOLDER) Loan A/c No. 411600004151 Symbolic Possession Date:18/12/2025	29/03/2025	Rs. 13132246.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the immovable house bearing Site No.41, Khata No.215/2, new Property ID No.150200400500403638 situated at Krishna Nagar, Kithagnoor Village, Gidarahalli Hobli,Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore measuring East to West: 63 Feet and North to South: 30 Feet in all totally measuring 1890 Sq.Feet bounded on the: East by: Private Property,West by: Road, North by: Property No.40, South by: Property No.42.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 22.12.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer
LIC Housing Finance Limited

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD.

(A Govt. of Telangana Undertaking)
(Formerly Central Power Distribution Company of Andhra Pradesh Ltd.)
Corporate Office, 6-1-50, Mint Compound :: Hyderabad-63(Telangana State, India)
CIN U40109TG2000SGC034116

e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)

TGSPDCL intends to float tenders for **Telecom service provider for providing M2M services and setting up VPN based MPLS WAN connectivity for TGSPDCL SCADA, Smartgrid, RTDAS Projects for 3 years period** on eprocurement platform. For further details of above, please visit **https://tgsouthernpower.org** and **www.tender.telangana.gov.in**. Phone: 040-23431321

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER (PROJECTS)

DIPR R.O.No.954-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26, Dt:20-12-2025

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGCO25521)

No.:SE(E)/Projects/AEE(C)/2025-26/Cys-27 Date: 19.12.2025

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(kppp portal mode only)

KPTCL invites bids against this enquiry No.SEE/AEE(C)/Projects/2025-26/CYS-27 Date: 19.12.2025 for Civil works coming in Transmission (Projects) Circle, KPTCL, Davanagere.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL" or https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on** or **after 11.00 a.m. on 23.12.2025.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer, (Ele), Transmission (Projects) Circle, KPTCL, Opposite District Stadium, Hadadi Road, Davangere.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/Tr(Op)ZM/SEE(O)/AEE-4/2025-26/7422 Dated : 19.12.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids against **Enquiry No: KPTCL/TZM/CEE/SEE(O)/AEE-4/DEO/2025-26/846 dtd:17.12.2025** for Providing 15 no's of Data Entry Operator Services required to various Offices of Operations Divisions of Transmission(Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Mysuru.
The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **22.12.2025**. Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy.),
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, N.R.Mohalla, Mysuru-570 007.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank **Regional Office West**

(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Chitrapur Mutt Complex, Malleswaram
15th Cross, Bangalore-560055

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)] TO BORROWER/GUARANTOR/MORTGAGOR

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Canara Bank, Regional Office West, Bengaluru** had issued Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Security Interest Act 2002 by Speed post, to the addresses furnished to the Bank as mentioned below. Since the notice has not been acknowledged and returned due to non-availability of addresses at the said addresses / due to evading of service of the notices sent by Speed post, notice could not be served. The contents of the said notice are mentioned herein below.

1. Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor : Mr. M D Shaik Sadique S/o Saik Mastanvali, No.24-108/4B, Plot No.48, Road No.1, Kiran Villa, Maruthi Nagar, Lothukunta Trimulgherry, Tirumalagiri, Telangana-500015. **1A.Mr. M D Shaik Sadique** S/o Shaik Mastanvali, No.1-1-180/17, Jhansi Lodge Building, RTC Cross Road, Chikkadapalli, Hyderabad, Telangana-500020.

Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the borrower:

Loan Number Nature of loan limit	Date of Sanction	Sanctioned Amount (Rs)	Liability with Interest as on date 15.12.2025	Rate of Interest
160002178619 Housing Loan	12/02/2024	Rs. 1,32,00,000/-	Rs. 83,62,263.86	7.20%P.A.+2% (penal interest)

Total Liability Amount: Rs.83,62,263.86 (Rupees Eighty Three Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty Three and Eighty Six Paise Only) as on **Date 15.12.2025** together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.

NPA Date : 11.12.2025 **Demand Notice Dated : 16.12.2025**

Name of the title holder : Mr. M D Shaik Sadique.

Details of Immovable Security Assets :

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY: Item No.1: All that Piece and Parcel of the immovable residential converted property bearing Sy.No.69, measuring 2 Acres 02 Guntas, vide Conversion Order bearing No.ALN(AJ)SR/61/2014-15 dated 16.01.2014, situated at Hennagara Amanikere Village, Jigani Hobli, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded on: East by : Property belonging to Sri.Ramaswamy Reddy, West by : Property belonging to Sri. Hosahalli Gullaih, North by: Property belonging to Sri.Shambaiah, South by : Property belonging to Sri. H M Krishnappa.
Item No.2: All that Piece and Parcel of the immovable residential converted property bearing Sy.No.73, measuring 1 Acre 03 Guntas, vide Conversion Order bearing No.ALN(AJ)SR/99/2014-15, dated 16.03.2015, situated at Hennagara Amanikere Village, Jigani Hobli, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded on: East by : Sy No.76, West by :Sy No 69, North by: Road, South by : Sy No.72.
Item No.3: All that Piece and Parcel of the immovable residential converted property bearing Sy.No.74, measuring 0-13 Guntas, vide Conversion Order bearing No.ALN(AJ)SR/99/2014-15, dated 16.03.2015, situated at Hennagara Amanikere Village, Jigani Hobli, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded on: East by : Property belonging to Sri. Muthappa, West by : Property belonging to Sri. Ramaswamy Reddy, North by: Raja Kaluve, South by : Remaining Property belonging to Sri. Ramesh Reddy.
Item No.4: All that Piece and Parcel of the immovable residential converted property bearing Sy.No.74, measuring 0-13 Guntas, vide Conversion Order bearing No.ALN(AJ)SR/99/2014-15, dated 16.03.2015, situated at Hennagara Amanikere Village, Jigani Hobli, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded on: East by : Property belonging to Sri.Gullappa, West by : Property belonging to Sri. Sambhaiah, North by: Kaluve, South by : Remaining Property to M/s. Associate Dwellings (P) Ltd.
Item No.5: All that Piece and Parcel of the immovable residential converted property bearing Sy.No.74, measuring 0-14 Guntas, vide Conversion order bearing No.ALN(AJ)SR/99/2014-15, dated 16.03.2015, situated at Hennagara Amanikere Village, Jigani Hobli, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded on: East by : Remaining Property in same Sy.No.74, West by : Remaining Property in same Sy.No.74, North by: Kaluve, South by : Sy No.73 & 69.
Item No.6: All that Piece and Parcel of the immovable residential converted property bearing Sy.No.74, measuring 0-12 Guntas, vide Conversion order bearing No.ALN(AJ)SR/99/2014-15, dated 16.03.2015, situated at Hennagara Amanikere Village, Jigani Hobli, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded on: East by : Remaining Property in same Sy.No.74, West by :Sy No.64 and Kaluve, North by: Kaluve, South by : Sy No.69.
Item No.7: All that Piece and Parcel of the immovable residential converted property bearing Sy.No.74, measuring 0- 12 Guntas, vide Conversion Order bearing No.ALN(AJ)SR/99/2014-15, dated 16.03.2015, situated at Hennagara Amanikere Village, Jigani Hobli, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded on: East by : Earlier Land belonging to Sri. Muthappa, West by : Property belonging to late Sri. Shambhaiah, North by: Raja Kaluve, South by : Earlier Property belonging to Sri. Bhaskar Reddy Presently Ramesh Reddy's Land.
Item No.8: All that Piece and Parcel of the immovable residentially converted property bearing Sy.No.76, measuring 1 -24 Guntas, vide Conversion Order No.ALN(AJ)SR/02/2014-15, dated 05.09.2014, situated at Hennagara Amanikere Village, Jigani Hobli, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on: East by : Sy No.75 and 77, West by :Sy No 73,72 and Sy No.71, North by: Sy No.75, South by : Road.
SCHEDULE ' B' PROPERTY: An Undivided share of land 1468 Square feet, right, title & interest in the Schedule 'A' Property at "CASTLETON GREENS" in composite Schedule Property bounded on the: East by : Road, West by: Unit No.76, North by: Unit No.74, South by : Road.
SCHEDULE ' C' PROPERTY: An 3 bedroom Residential Unit bearing No -75 on the Ground and First Floor of the Building known as "Castleton Greens" constructed in the Schedule A Property, having a Super built-up area of 2474 Square Feet (which is inclusive of the floors, ceiling and walls between the building.

You are here by called upon to pay **Canara Bank,** within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, the respective amount mentioned here above, failing which **Canara Bank** will take necessary action under the provisions of the said Act, against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers, Guarantors & Mortgagers. The powers available to **Canara Bank** under the Act include (i) power to take possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagers including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realising secured assets and any transfer of secured assets by **Canara Bank** shall vest in the transferee rights in or in relation to, the secured asset transferred as if the transfer has been made by you. In terms of the provisions of section 13(13) of the said Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to in the Demand Notice and also Hypothecated / Mortgaged to the bank without prior written consent of the Bank. The notice is issued in terms of Section (13)2 of the said Act.

Date : 18.12.2025
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

YOUR GUIDE TO SPICY LIVING

INDULGE

Every Friday with
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)

Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

NOTICE

1. Aggregate Amount : Total Rs.6000 crore (Rs.1000 crore-06 Years and 6 Months Tenure ; Rs.2000 crore-08 Years Tenure ; Rs.1000 crore-10 Years Tenure ; Rs.2000 crore-12 Years Tenure)
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through RBI (PDO), Mumbai
3. Date of auction : December 23, 2025

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bangalore. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in.**

Sd/- (Ikram Shariff)
Joint Secretary to Government
(Budget & Resources), Finance Department

DIPR/CP/4567/Zen/2025-26

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch,
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower,
M.G. Road Bengaluru-560001
Ph:080-25310066, E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 07.01.2026 (10.30 AM to 11.00 AM), for recovery of Rs. 1,16,47,733.90 (Rupees One Crore Sixteen Lakh Forty Seven Thousands Seven Hundred Thirty Three And Paisa Ninety Only) as on 18.12.2025** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from (1) SDDP Enterprises,** No.4, K No 149 1, R S Palya, Bangalore-560033. **(2) Lakshmipathy V,** 253, 8th Cross, St Anns School Road, Bhovi Colony, Near Doddamma Temple, Rama Murthy Nagar, Bengaluru- 560016.
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **06.01.2026 - 5.00 pm.**

(₹.In Lakhs)

Lot	Description of the immovable assets:	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1	All that part and parcel of residential property bearing Site No.70, Khatha No.166, House List No.193 situated at ITI notified area, Kowdanahalli Village, K R Pura, Hobli Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West 33 feet and North to South 45 feet in all measuring 1485 Sq.ft and now the property comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP bearing municipal No.70, HL No.166 BBMP Ward No.26 Bangalore and the property stands in the name of Mr. V. Lakshmipathy S/o Late Sri Venkatappa and intended to be offered as security to the proposed loan and bounded on the: East by: Site belongs to Smt.Kamalamma, West by: Road, North by: Govt. Property, South by: Site No.69.	₹. 104.30 Lakh	₹. 10.43 Lakh	₹. 1.00 Lakh

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.. 9483544116 and 8598009010 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 20.12.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,

THE GRAIN MERCHANTS CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. Estd:1927

.O, No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru-560018.
Phone 26677552, 26679041

POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
[APPENDIX IV (RULE 8(1)]

Where as the undersigned being the authorised officer of The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstructionof Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules. at The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers in the following accounts having failed to repay the amount, notice is here by given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described here in bellow in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned herein below. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is/are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited for amount and interest on & other charges.

Date of Possession: 17.12.2025

Name of the Borrower/Surety & Description of the Property Mortgaged	Amount outstanding
Applicant: Sri K.N.Prasad S/o Sri K.N.Narasimha Murthy Surety: Smt H.S.Radha W/o Sri K.N.Prasad All the piece and parcel of residential property bearing No.48, PID No.85-16-48, Situated at 5th Cross, Biyapanahalli Extension, Ward No.85, Bangalore. Measuring East to West:40 Ft., and North to South: 40 Ft., totally measuring 1600 Sq.Ft along with 3600 Sq.Ft residential building, bounded as East by: Road,West by: Site No.49, North by: 15 Feet Road, South by: Site No.32 & 33.	**61,83,399/- + Int. thereon 17.12.2025**
Applicant: 1) Sri N.Ramesh Babu S/o Sri Narasimha 2) Sri G.Mohan Raj (Legal heir of Late Venkatalakshmamma) All that piece and parcel of property bearing No.3, PID No.29-71-3, 6th Cross, Akkipet, Bangalore-560053. Measuring East to West: 24 Ft., North to South: 21'6 Ft., Bounded on East by: Property of Venkataramanappa and Lakshmaiah, West by: Property of Srinivasulu and Ramappa, North by: Property of Srinivasulu, South by: Road.	**87,97,064.88 + Int. thereon 17.12.2025**

Amount paid if any by any of the above borrowers after issuance of Possession Notice, would be reckoned for ascertaining the dues payable at the time of realisation / settlement.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 17.12.2025

Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., Bangalore -18

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

(A Government of India Undertaking)

Canara Bank,
ARM Branch I
2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001.

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable / Movable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provisio to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Movable and Immovable property mortgaged/chrged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **23.01.2026 (10.30 AM to 11.00 AM),** for recovery of **Rs. 83,93,928.45/-** with further interest and cost thereon due to the ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from **1. Mrs. Arshiya Begum,** Flat No. 001 3A, Masjid E Kaif, Bheemanna Layout, Shampur Main Road, Bangalore- 560032. **2. Mr. Mahammed Iqbal Shaik,** Flat No. 001 3A, Masjid E Kaif, Bheemanna Layout, Shampur Main Road, Bangalore- 560032.
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s. PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentionedin the said challan on or before **22.01.2026, 5.00 pm.** **(Rs. in Lacs)**

Lot	Description of the immovable/ movable assets	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental value Rs.
1	**SCHEDULE "A" :** All that piece and Parcel of property residentially converted land measuring 2 Acres 8 Guntas in Sy. No. 108/2, situated at Kachanayakanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, (land converted for non agricultural residential purposes vide Official Memorandum dated:11-11-1992 vide No.B/DIS/ALN/SR(A)/103/1998-99, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore), together with 200 residential apartment known as Garden Residency, unit/s in "A,B,C,D,E & F" Blocks together with car parking slots, and bounded on the : East by: Land in Sy. No. 108/2, West by: Road, carved out of kharab land, North by: Road, carved out of kharab land, South by: Tank Bed. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.805049 Longitude- 77.676867** **SCHEDULE "B" :** (Undivided share, right, title and interest of land to be conveyed under this sale Deed) 400 Sq.Ft. of undivided share, right, title and interest of land in the Schedule "A" Property. **SCHEDULE "C" :** All that piece and parcel of property bearing Flat No. BE-301 totally measuring a super built up area of 1089 Sq.Ft. in the Second Floor in "E" Block along with covered car parking space in the Basement/ Surface/Stilt Floor numbered as BE-301 along with 400 Sq.Ft. of undivided interest in land comprising Schedule "A" property in one of such apartment units/flats in the said apartment Building "GARDEN RESIDENCY", situated at Kachanayakanahalli Village,Jigani Hobli, Aneka Taluk, Bangalore District, Bangalore and bounded on : East by : Residential Apartment privately numbered as E-302 in the second floor in "E" Block, West by: Common Staircase Area, North by: Area opens to sky of the apartment building, South by: Common corridor.	45.00	4.50	0.50

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in **Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com)** or E-Wallet of **M/s. PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal and may contact **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No. 080-25310066, 8598009010 and 9483544116** during office hours on any working day.

Date: 19.12.2025
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Offier
Canara Bank

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

SPORT

15 BENGALURU MONDAY 22.12.2025

newindianexpress.com

'Sports must get priority over political, bureaucratic formalities'

Former India football captain Bhaichung Bhutia on Sunday termed the chaos during Lionel Messi's public event at the Salt Lake Stadium as undesirable and said sports events must be given "priority" over political and bureaucratic formalities. Speaking after a running event in Kolkata, Bhutia said fans turn up to watch sport and players, not political speeches or ceremonial delays.

Rinku is Mr Right for India

Team combination once led to his ouster but it now gives him a chance to feature in T20 WC

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

RINKU Singh had a mediocre season with the eventual champions Kolkata Knight Riders in 2024 scoring 168 runs from 15 matches. A lot of it could be attributed to him coming down the order when a batter has no option than trying to score quick runs even if that means playing more risky shots and perishing in the process.

Soon after, the Uttar Pradesh all-rounder, who also bowls off break, didn't find a place in the team for the 2024 T20 World Cup. Despite being a regular in the T20I set up since making his debut in August 2023, Rinku missed the marquee tournament and team combination was cited as a reason. The Rohit Sharma-led team management wanted four spinners and Rinku missed out. Things started looking the same once again with the 29-year-old left-hand batter omitted from the team for the five-match T20I series against South Africa — the penultimate bilateral series before the World Cup. Signs were there when Rinku could not find a place in the playing XI against hosts Australia in the first four matches of the five T20Is in the previous series. He eventually got the chance but the last match ended in a no result.

It looked Rinku, who curiously is considered a T20 specialist despite him boasting an impressive average of 59.30 from 52 first-class matches and 47.54 from 62 List A games, might have to suffer the heartache until the team combination, which once led to his ouster, made his entry possible in the squad of 15.

India selectors took a brave call on Saturday to axe Shubman Gill, who not only made his comeback to the T20I set up but was also made the vice captain in the Asia Cup earlier this year. Gill's exclusion gave the management an option at the top and they preferred to have a wicketkeeper-batter in his keeper to back up the order to have 2-3 good combinations which can win us the World Cup," India T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav told journalists during the press conference after the squad announcement.

DEATH OVER BATTING (IN T20IS SINCE 2024)

Player	Mat	Runs	Sr
Hardik	18	293	176.5
Axar	12	115	142
Dube	12	111	176.2
Rinku	11	114	186.9
Washington	6	67	126.4

> **We wanted to have someone like Rinku Singh or maybe a Washington Sundar later on to have a different combination** —Suryakumar Yadav, India captain

Whatever might have prompted the decision but Rinku seems to be the most viable option down the order given his knack to score runs at brisk pace. He has a strike rate of 186.9 and tops the list of Indian batters in the death overs since 2024 which also includes Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Shivam Dube and Washington Sundar. Compare his numbers with Jitesh Sharma, whom he had replaced, it becomes crystal clear that opting for Rinku is a good call going forward. Jitesh has batted in all positions from No 4 to 8 in 12 innings so far scoring 162 runs at a strike rate of 151.40. Almost similarly, Rinku too has batted from No 4 to 7 scoring 550 runs from 25 innings striking at a rate of 161.76.

It's true numbers may not present the full picture on occasions but Rinku has proved time and again — be it his stint with the state side or IPL franchise or the India team — that he has the potential to rip apart any bowling attack on his day and co-hosts India will need his destructive prowess quite often if they wish to retain the title.

place thus opening the door for out-of-favour Ishan Kishan. Gill's ouster created a ripple effect and with Sanju Samson already in the team, the place of Jitesh Sharma, who has become the first-choice wicketkeeper of late, fell vacant. This gave Rinku a chance to return to the team for the premier event. "We wanted to have a keeper at the top. We wanted to have someone like Rinku Singh or maybe a Washington Sundar later on to have a different combination. So, that's why we brought in that extra wicketkeeper at the top. And it's not about the form, it's about the quality. He's (Gill) a terrific player. And there's no question about that. It's just that the situation is such that we need a

REVITALISED SINDHU BRACES FOR NEW SEASON

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

WITH modest returns on the court, PV Sindhu was mostly in the background on the BWF World Tour this season. Injuries had amplified her issues as she had struggled to get any sort of momentum. So much so that the two-time Olympic medallist had decided to end the season much earlier in order to heal and return stronger. With the new season knocking on the door, Sindhu seems to be in good spirits.

PV Sindhu with Vikram Ghoda (2nd right), one of the partners of Sports Centre NX), Vikramaditya Dhar, Managing Director, Sunrise Sports, and Karan Dhar (Right), Director, Sunrise Sports in Chennai on Sunday | P JAWAHAR

On Sunday, the former world champion was the cynosure of all eyes during the inauguration of the Yonex Sunrise exclusive store at Sports Center NX in the city where she was mobbed by an enthusiastic crowd — young and old. As the fans queued up for autographs and pictures, she happily obliged with grace. Some fans were even lucky to get a selfie with the champion athlete. Thulasimathi Murugesan (Arjuna awardee & Paralympics silver medallist), J Meghanatha Reddy (IAS Member Secretary, SDAT), Karan Dhar (Director, Sunrise Sports India), Vikramaditya Dhar, (Managing Director, Sunrise Sports India), Kailash Ghoda and Vikram Ghoda (partners of Sports Centre NX, a family-run business) were also present during the launch of the store.

After briefly interacting with the fans and officials, Sindhu reflected on her recent results and her aspirations going forward. "Everybody wants to win, everybody wants to play...but sometimes it's not always possible to stay up to the mark. You do get injured. We have to make sure that we stay injury-free. So it's vital to take care of your body. That's what I'm doing right now (...). The tournament schedule is long and you have to pick and choose tournaments, what to play and what not to play," the World No 18 said. "I'm fit now. I have started my training sessions. I'll be in action in Malaysia. I have to be a little bit smart in terms of what training I'm doing, what exercises I'm doing. So we have a team and it's going really well. I have Irwansyah as a coach and it's all doing well."

> **Aiming for that (LA28). It is far away. It's a step-by-step process for me. We all aim for it but in that period, it's important for everyone to stay strong, mentally and physically.**
>
> — PV Sindhu

After returning with medals in two back-to-back Olympics (2016 and 2020), the Hyderabad shuttler had missed out on a hat-trick in Paris. The 30-year-old has been far from her best in recent months but she has intentions to be in good shape ahead of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. The experienced pro is taking it one day at a time. "Aiming for that. It is far away. It's a step-by-step process for me. We all aim for it but in that period, it's important for everyone to stay strong, both mentally and physically. That's key for every athlete...if you are physically strong and mentally not there, it can't work like that. Both are very important."

After the season opener in Malaysia, she'll be in action during the India Open before going on to take part in the Indonesia Masters. She wants to garner some form of consistency in the upcoming season. "I have experienced a lot over the years. It's important to be consistent and keep going. Of course, every day is a new learning experience. I have had different coaches, which I'm very grateful for. Every time you go to the court, you learn something or the other. You learn new strokes, new skills."

Events come thick and fast at the highest level of the sport. The Badminton Asia Team Championships is also not far away. Sindhu, who'll be leading the charge in the women's singles category in the continental event, is encouraged given the promise displayed by some of the youngsters in the country. The Indian women will be hoping to defend their title during the event which is scheduled to be held from February 3 to 8 in Qingdao, China. "We have a very good team. But one has to have a look at the draws, how they are going to be. As I said earlier, we have a good team and I hope we can do well," said an optimistic Sindhu.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

U19 ASIA CUP

Minhas ton helps Pak beat India, clinch title

AGENCIES @ Dubai

INDIA faltered against the big-hitting Sameer Minhas and the extra zip of pacers, suffering a massive 191-run defeat against Pakistan in a one-sided 50-over Under-19 Asia Cup final, here Sunday. Pakistan lifted their second U19 Asia Cup, and as it is the norm now, there was no formal greetings between the players of two teams.

Once Pakistan posted a mammoth 347/8, riding on Minhas' 172 (113b, 17x4, 9x6) they needed a lion-hearted chase to clinch a ninth title in the tournament. But the tall Pakistan pace troika — Ali Reza (4/42), Mohammad Sayyam (2/38) and Abdul Subhan (2/29) — hurried their top-order with hard-lengths as India folded for 156 in 26.2 overs.

Brief scores: Pakistan U19 347/8 in 50 ovs (Minhas 172; Deepesh D 3/83) **bt** India U19 156 in 26.2 ovs (Deepesh D 36; Ali Raza 4/42)

Rodrigues guides India home

ENS @ Visakhapatnam

IN what was their first outing since lifting the Women's Cricket World Cup on November 2, India put up a clinical performance to beat Sri Lanka and take 1-0 lead in the five-match T20I series. If the bowlers kept the visitors to 121/6, Jemimah Rodrigues led the charge with the bat as her unbeaten 69 from 44 balls took India home.

Opting to bowl first after winning the toss, India had handed debut to 20-year-old Vaishnavi Sharma — a promising left-arm spinner from Madhya Pradesh. She shared the spin-bowling duties along with Deepti Sharma and NR Sree Charani while Kranti Goud and Arundhati Reddy being the two frontline seamers. This combination is something India are experimenting as they began their preparations for the Women's T20 World Cup to be held in England in June 2026. Together, they kept things tight as Sri Lanka tried to enforce the pace on the ball with little success. Vishmi Gunaratne was their top scorer (39 from 43 balls) as Sri Lanka scrapped their way to 121/6.

Jemimah Rodrigues slams an unbeaten half-century on Sunday | G SATYANARAYANA

In the chase, both Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma got early boundaries, but could not sustain. The latter fell but Mandhana built a partnership with Rodrigues. The No 3 batter in the format continued her good form from the knockout stages of the ODI World Cup. As she often does, Rodrigues heavily scored on the square (either sides) while also bringing out the lofted shots against spinners. Once Mandhana fell, she kept going along with captain Harmanpreet Kaur to take India home in 14.4 overs. The second T20I will be at the same venue on Tuesday.

Brief scores: SL 121/6 in 20 ovs (Vishmi 39; Deepti 1/20) **lost to** India 122/2 in 14.4 ovs (Jemimah 69 n.o, Smriti 25; Inoka 1/17).

EXPRESS READ

Tournament for budding cricketers

MUMBAI: Dinesh Lad Cricket Foundation is organising Little Champs Cup U11 Cricket Tournament in the memory of late Savitri Devi Goenka from Dec 26-31 at Gopinath Munde Shakti Udyaan - Dahisar West, Mumbai. The tournament is aimed at promoting grassroot cricket & nurturing young talent.

Pak selector admits following India's plans

KARACHI: Pakistan selector and head of the National Cricket Academy, Aaqib Javed has revealed that he has been following India's success story and has tried to implement in his country. "I have looked at India's success and have to tried execute plans for betterment of Pakistan cricket," he said.

Rogers scores double as Villa sink Man United

AGENCIES @ London

ASTON Villa stepped up their unexpected Premier League title challenge as Morgan Rogers' brilliant brace sealed a 2-1 win against Manchester United on Sunday. Unai Emery's side took the lead through Rogers' stunning strike late in the first half at Villa Park.

Matheus Cunha levelled for United moments later but Rogers bagged his sixth goal in his last six league ties to clinch Villa's 10th successive win in all competitions. Unai Emery's third-placed side are just three points adrift of leaders Arsenal and one behind second-placed Manchester City as they chase a first English title since 1981. Villa are on their best winning run in all competitions since 1914.

Barca extend lead

BARCELONA: Barcelona wingers Raphinha and Lamine Yamal guided the Catalan giants four points clear at the top of La Liga with a 2-0 win at 10-man Villarreal on Sunday.

Of stars and emotions: WTL lift fans' spirit

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Bengaluru

IN a heated men's doubles match between the AOB Kites and Aussie Eagles during the final of the World Tennis League (WTL) at the SM Krishna Stadium on Saturday, two of their stars – Nick Kyrgios and Gael Monfils — had a moment to savour, after a long, entertaining rally. Under the lights, the two stars tried their bit to rouse the crowd. Monfils' armwaving to get the crowd on and Kyrgios's antics with his racquet got the stadium into an encore.

More than the tennis played over the last four days in the WTL, fans flocking the stands enjoyed every bit of emotion these players displayed. Kyrgios's constant trips to the umpire only for him to be told off put the crowd into splits. Monfils' celebrations with his Indian colleagues to pump the crowd was one to remember. "I like the fact that the players are actually having fun rather than coming here for the sake of it," one could hear a fan telling their friends.

Another facet of their excitement comes from the fact that the Indian players – Sumit Nagal, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, Dhaksineshwar Suresh to name a few – challenged their foreign opponents. Take Saturday's first women's singles game between Bhamidipaty of the AOS Eagles and Ukraine's Marta Kostyok of the Aussie Kites, for example. Bhamidipaty – ranked 348 — got the crowd singing her name after she briefly controlled the proceedings. Later on, she would lose 4-6, but her fighting spirit got the crowd clapping.

Aussie Kites led by Nick Kyrgios with the World Tennis League title | WTL

RESULTS: WS: S Bhamidipaty (AOS Eagles) **lost to** M Kostyok(Kites) 4-6; XD: Bhamidapaty/Monfils (Eagles) **bt** Dhakshineswar/Kostyok 6-3 (Kites). MD: Dhakshineswar/Kyrgios (Kites) **bt** Nagal/Monfils (Eagles) 6-3; MS: Dhakshineswar S (Kites) **bt** S Nagal 7-6 (Eagles). Aussie Mavericks Kites **bt** AOS Eagles 22-19.

As the players – who have just completed a long year in professional circuits — descend to India, they were given the chance to use their charm, their showmanship and their experience on beating their opponent. That was on full show for the last three days.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Amazing Adelaide: Australia retain Ashes in 11 days

AGENCIES @ Adelaide

DOMINANT Australia collected the last four wickets they needed Sunday to win the third Test and retain the Ashes in just 11 days of cricket, crushing the dreams of a "hurting" England side who finally showed some fight.

England's dogged resistance on day five at Adelaide Oval lasted into the second session before Scott Boland removed Josh Tongue for an 82-run victory to ensure the famous urn remains in Australian hands. "It feels pretty awesome," said Australia captain Pat Cummins. "It wasn't easy today, but we got it done. It's an exciting changing room. The last two months have been a bit of a grind," he added. "But it's all worth it for days like this. That's when we are at our best ... it's good old-fashioned grind, and I love the toil from all the guys."

> **11** Australia's series win in 11 days is joint second-quickest in The Ashes in more than a century

With the series won, Cummins may miss the next match in Melbourne. Meanwhile, Nathan Lyon suffered a right hamstring injury on the final day of the Adelaide Test and is in serious doubt for the remainder of the series. **Brief scores:** Australia 371 & 349 **bt** England 286 & 352 in 102.5 ovs (Smith 60, Cummins 3/48).

Australian team celebrates after winning the third Test against England Sunday | AP

GLOBAL CHESS LEAGUE

Yifan stars for SG Pipers, Continental Kings seal final spot

ENS/AGENCIES @ Mumbai

THREE-TIME women's world champion Hou Yifan won both her games on Saturday with black pieces to help Alpine SG Pipers register two victories on the penultimate day of the league stage and jump to second spot on Match day in the Global Chess League (GCL) on Sunday.

Defending champions Triveni Continental Kings sealed their third consecutive final berth with a 14-5 win over Ganges Grandmasters to reach 21 match points with seven wins from nine matches. With SG Pipers beating upGrad Mumba Masters and Fyers American Gambits by an identical 8-7 score-line with black to reach 15 match points. Mumba Masters hopes of making the finals, however, suffered a major setback as they lost both their matches on Sunday. The home favourites had to beat PBG Alaskan Knights in the last game of the day on Sunday to regain the second spot. However, they went down 8-10 despite Maxime Vachier-Lagrave beating world champion D Gukesh on the icon board.

GM Viswanathan Anand and GM Alireza Firouzja in action on Sunday | GCL

However, Player of the Match Leinier Dominguez defeated Shakhriyar Mamedyarov on third board and then Sara Khadem upset D Harika by forcing the Indian to resign after 65 moves. With the second final spot up for grabs, Mumba Masters will have to beat Continental Kings and hope that PBG Alaskan Knights could stop the winning run of Alpine SG Pipers. Ganges Grandmasters also have an outside chance to make the cut but for that to happen they will have to register a huge win over American Gambits and hope that the other contenders lose. When action began on Sunday, Pipers were in fifth spot and needed to win both their matches. And Hou Yifan delivered for the team when it mattered the most. **Results:** Alpine SG Pipers beat upGrad Mumba Masters 8-7; Ganga Grandmasters lost to Triveni Continental Kings 5-14; PBG Alaskan Knights bt upGrad Mumba Masters 10-8.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
BENGALURU, MONDAY
22.12.2025

EDUCATION EXPRESS
edex YOUR LIFE COACH

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

AIIMS CRE-2025	ICSI CS EXAMS	RRB NTPC (GRADUATE) CBAT
Date: Dec 22–24	Date: Dec 22	Date: Dec 28

edex LIVE.com | newindianexpress.com

What do employers really look for during an interview?

Clarity in answers
Can you explain what you did, why you did it, and what changed as a result?

Problem framing
Do you define the problem before jumping to solutions?

Structured thinking
Do your responses follow a clear sequence (context, approach, outcome, learning)?

Evidence of learning
Can you show improvement over time, including what you changed after feedback?

Quality of examples
Do you back claims with specific instances from projects, internships, clubs, or coursework?

Tool fluency
Can you use common digital tools comfortably and pick up new ones quickly?

Judgement under ambiguity
Can you make reasonable assumptions, ask clarifying questions, and move forward?

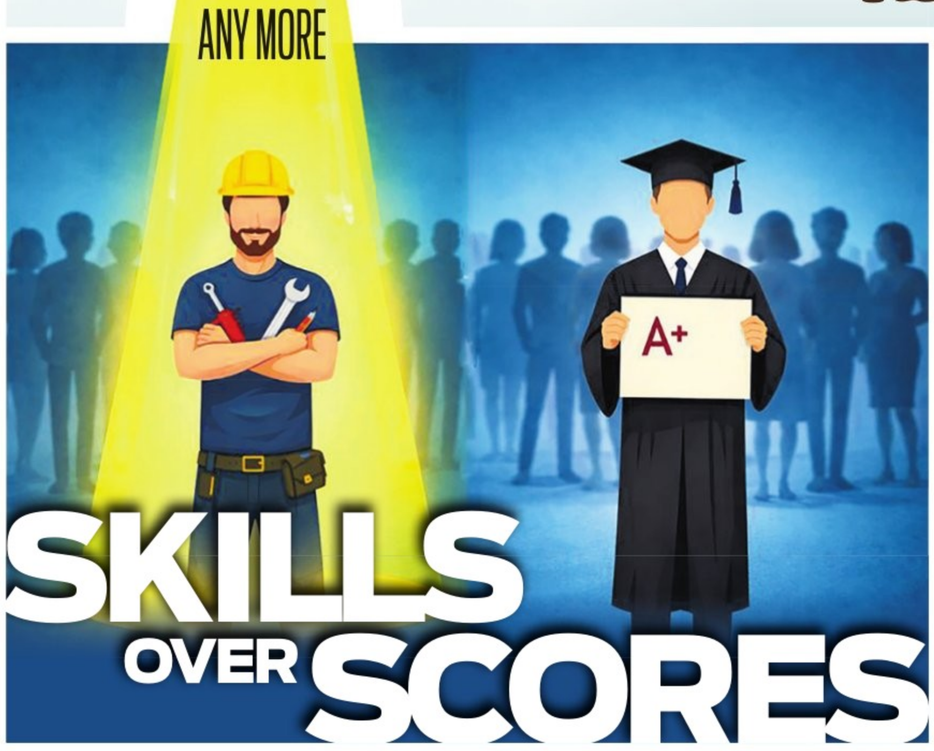
From Cabins to Creativity: How offices have evolved

The modern workplace has undergone a visible transformation. Once designed purely for supervision and routine, offices today are increasingly built around employee well-being, collaboration, and flexibility. Here's how old-style offices differ from new-generation workspaces:

Then		Now
Clear structure, fixed hours, predictable routines	**Work norms**	Outcomes, flexibility, hybrid coordination
Dedicated desks, cabins, defined seating zones	**Layout**	Flexible zones for focus, meetings, and collaboration
Desktops, paper-based tracking, in-person handovers	**Tools and workflow**	Cloud tools, shared docs, digital collaboration
Formal meetings, scheduled, room based	**Meetings and collaboration**	Mixed formats, quick syncs, breakout discussions
Seniority, steady effort, reliable delivery	**Performance signals**	Impact, problem-solving, ownership
Standard ergonomics, general workplace support	**Well-being and boundaries**	Expanded focus on well-being and sustainable pace

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

WHY MARKS ALONE DO NOT DEFINE WORKPLACE READINESS ANY MORE



How college habits translate at work

CAMPUS PRIORITIES	VS	WORKPLACE PRIORITIES
Certificates and badges		Handling messy, real situations
Memorising the "right" answers		Small skills done consistently
Big skills on paper		Priorities, planning, follow-through
Busy schedules		Adaptability as roles change
A perfect career plan		Accuracy and judgement under constraints
College brand		A track record you can show

FOR decades, academic scores have served as the most visible signal of merit. Report cards decide who gets shortlisted, who is praised at home, and who feels confident walking into a placement hall. Employers continue to look at scores while screening large applicant pools, and do respect academic efforts. What has changed, however, is what those marks can realistically tell them.

"Marks still carry weight as a basic screening tool," says Dr Brillian S K, Chief People Officer at TimesPro, a workforce skilling and employability platform that works closely on early-career talent development. High scores signal discipline, consistency, and the ability to work through a syllabus. Once basic criteria are checked, however, the evaluation becomes more applied. "After the first round, we look for proof of readiness: how well they can think, communicate, and learn without needing too much guidance," he explains.

Today's work environments move faster, rely on more collaboration, and expect young hires to adapt quickly. Scores alone cannot signal these abilities. Students who understand what the modern workplace really values can prepare more intentionally for the leap from study to employment.

This shift has been driven by the way entry-level roles themselves have changed. Abhishek Arora, CEO of TimesPro, points out that teams are leaner and young hires are closer to outcomes than they used to be. "Entry-level talent is expected to contribute to measurable outcomes, not just 'support' work," he says. Routine tasks are increasingly compressed by tools, pushing the human value towards judgement, problem framing, and execution quality.

Managers expect new colleagues to pick up tools, understand context, and start contributing in weeks rather than months. A fresher might join a marketing team and find themselves working with data, automation tools, and colleagues in different cities on day one. Written tests and viva exams rarely simulate the messy mix of partial information, conflicting inputs, and shifting goals that shape most modern workplaces.

For employers, readiness now looks more like a pattern of behaviour than a number. Dr Brillian describes it as being a 'dependable learner'. "They should ask thoughtful questions, act on feedback quickly and update the team without being prompted," he says. In the first 90 days of a new job, problem-solving, clear written and spoken communication, and a sense of ownership tend to stand out far more than the exact percentage on a mark sheet. "I also pay attention to whether they can speak openly about a past mistake," he adds. "That is often a strong indicator of how quickly they will adapt."

Artificial intelligence has sharpened this divide further. Tools can now draft emails, summarise reports, and generate options in seconds. Employers expect freshers, even in nontech roles, to use AI to speed up routine work, then apply their own judgement. "Today, information is easy to access, so your value comes from the decisions you make," Dr Brillian says, noting that it's less about producing text and more about framing the prompt well, and adapting the output to a real context.

Abhishek further notes that many freshers still think of work as a list of tasks, even though teams operate on a system of outcomes. "Effort only counts when it ladders up to the right problem, for the right stakeholder, at the right moment," he says, adding that "What freshers often miss is the discipline of context: understanding why something matters, what 'good' looks like, and which trade-offs are acceptable."

Early career employees who treat every instruction as equal often miss this, and that misunderstanding becomes obvious when priorities change, when feedback is blunt, or when colleagues outside the immediate team need to be convinced. Many freshers are surprised by how much of their success depends on people who do not report to them. Influence, context, and collaboration turn out to be as critical as speed.

on the job

Across both perspectives, one idea repeats in different forms. The first few weeks in a new role reveal much more than a semester of marks. Employers look for agility, clarity, and the capacity to treat every week as a learning loop where you clarify the goal, ship a version, invite critique, and improve without taking criticism personally. Candidates who work in that rhythm tend to compound their capability quickly, even if their academic record is uneven.

For students and early professionals, exams still open doors and remain a shared language across institutions and recruiters. Expectations have shifted about what happens after that entry point. Beyond a certain stage, the real signal comes from how you think, communicate, adapt, and carry responsibility when the outcome is uncertain.

THE FOUR SKILL ZONES

STUDENTS today need a balanced mix of cognitive, social-emotional, digital, and life skills to thrive in higher education, the workplace, and society. While these abilities are sometimes described through broader categories like foundational literacies, higher-order skills, and character qualities, they come together most clearly in four core skill zones that shape real-world readiness.

Cognitive skills
- Critical thinking
- Creativity and innovation
- Metacognition, learning to learn
- Data and numeracy skills

Social-emotional skills
- Self-management
- Empathy and interpersonal awareness
- Resilience and emotional regulation
- Ethics, integrity, accountability

Life and work skills
- Effective communication
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Initiative and leadership
- Flexibility, adaptability, civic awareness

Digital & information
- Information literacy
- Media literacy
- Technology literacy
- Responsible digital judgement

WHAT REALLY GETS GEN Z HIRED

Recruiters tell Karthikeya S what the job market expects from Gen Z candidates

GEN Z has developed a reputation for being "hard to manage", but are Gen Z employees truly difficult to work with, or simply operating with different expectations? Two employers who work closely with early-career talent describe a generation shaped by different expectations around pace and purpose, not a lack of discipline or commitment. Abhimanyu Saxena, Co-founder of Scaler and Interviewbit, says Gen Z's workplace reputation is frequently misunderstood. "Gen Z employees are more misunderstood than difficult. They enter the workforce with a strong sense of agency. They value speed of learning and purpose in their work," he notes. What some interpret as entitlement, he frames as a desire for challenge, transparency, and impact. In settings that provide these, he says the cohort is "driven, adaptable, and outcome-oriented."

Saxena adds that hiring today hinges on demonstrable ability. "There's a clear shift from credentials to skill and readiness. Employers value experience through small projects, hands-on problem-solving, or practical applications," he explains. Learning fast, taking ownership, and collaborating effectively remain the strongest signals of day-one contribution.

Rajeev Kapoor, Senior VP and Country Head at Curriculum Associates India, shares a similar reading of Gen Z motivations. "Not at all," he says when asked if Gen Z is difficult to work with. "Gen Z brings a strong sense of impact and context to the workplace. They ask purposeful questions about how work connects to the bigger picture." According to him, when organisations set clear goals, the response from young employees is marked by "speed, ownership, and an impressive bias for learning." Kapoor points to the traits gaining the most value in recruitment cycles: creative problem-solving, business awareness, and the ability to use AI tools effectively. He adds that communication, active listening, accountability, and thoroughness consistently help Gen Z stand out. When combined with strong collaborative skills, these traits shape long-term success.

For companies watching the next wave of talent, the patterns are clear: Gen Z isn't difficult, just different — and with the right support, they become some of the fastest contributors on a team.

XPRESS FOCUS

"Digital skills form the bedrock of the future workforce", says Sindhu Gangadharan, Managing Director, SAP Labs India, Head of Customer Innovation Services, SAP

Digital skills are on everyone's radar these days. For a company like SAP, focused on enterprise software, what does the skilling perspective look like?

■ For me, digital skills form the bedrock of the future workforce. India has the world's largest youth population, and more than 65% of its people are under the age of 35. This demographic strength gives us an incredible opportunity, but it also places a responsibility on all of us to build future-ready talent at scale. Technology evolves quickly and staying relevant means constantly building new skills and perspectives. This belief shapes everything we do, from how we work with customers to how we develop talent. SAP Learning Hub, student edition, reflects this philosophy. It's designed to give students structured access to cutting-edge digital learning, so they can not only understand technology but also apply it to solve real business challenges, innovate within enterprises, and lead change with confidence. By doing this at scale, especially in a country like India, we can create meaningful impact both for individuals and the economy at large.

Sindhu Gangadharan, Managing Director, SAP Labs India, Head of Customer Innovation Services, SAP

Now that SAP has identified an opportunity to support students in India through SAP Learning Hub, how will this empower students in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities?

■ Access is the biggest enabler of opportunity and that's what we're addressing with the SAP Learning Hub, student edition. Through SAP Learning Hub, student edition, we are aiming to address this gap by making world-class digital learning available free of cost, anywhere in India. With just an internet connection, students can access the same courses, hands-on practice systems, and SAP Certification pathways as their peers globally. India has more than 1,168 universities, 45,473 colleges and 12,002 stand-alone institutions. By bringing SAP Learning Hub to students, we're levelling the playing field. Students can now build the same in-demand digital skills. This initiative aligns with India's broader skilling priorities. With nasscom FutureSkills Prime, India is focusing on building technology skills spanning 155+ skills for 70+ job roles on 10 emerging technologies and 10 non-tech skills. SAP Learning Hub complements these efforts by bridging academic learning with enterprise skills.

For students in smaller cities, it is also to unlock new career pathways, gaining exposure to global industry standards, and stepping into the workforce with confidence.

How does the platform help students move from classroom learning to being truly industry-ready?

■ The transition from classroom to workplace is one of the most critical junctures in a student's journey. Traditional education provides theoretical grounding, but industry-readiness comes from applying knowledge to real-world situations. That's where SAP Learning Hub makes a difference. The platform offers scenario-based learning, case studies drawn from actual enterprise contexts, and hands-on experience with SAP systems. Students work with simulations of live business processes from managing supply chains to running financial operations which builds practical understanding. This applied exposure gives them the confidence to contribute meaningfully from day one. Students can earn SAP digital badges and certifications that are globally recognized. These credentials validate their skills and increase their visibility to employers. Importantly, the learning experience mirrors the pace and expectations of industry, helping students build problem-solving, critical thinking, and adaptability skills that go beyond technical know-how.

Q&A

Can students from any stream benefit from registering on SAP Learning Hub for free?

■ Absolutely. One of the strongest advantages of SAP Learning Hub is its relevance across disciplines. SAP technology powers core business functions in organizations worldwide, spanning finance, supply chain, marketing, HR, sustainability, and manufacturing. This means opportunities aren't limited to students from computer science or IT backgrounds. For example, a management student can explore SAP S/4HANA modules relevant to finance and operations, while a supply chain student can learn about digital logistics solutions. Engineering students can dive into development environments or AI-driven applications, and commerce students can strengthen their understanding of business processes through hands-on SAP systems. The future of work will be multidisciplinary, and digital skills are becoming the common language across roles.

Once students are on the platform, what kind of support can they expect? Are there mentors, learning communities, or guidance built in?

■ The platform is designed as a complete learning ecosystem. It goes beyond being a digital library of courses. Students follow structured SAP Learning Journeys that guide them step by step, track progress, and award digital badges as they reach milestones. Community plays a key role. SAP Learning Hub has built-in discussion forums, peer groups, and community spaces where students can exchange ideas, ask questions, and collaborate. SAP's global ecosystem provides access to expert-led sessions and curated content. Many universities also integrate SAP Learning Hub into their curriculum, giving students the benefit of faculty guidance alongside the platform's resources.

For more information about SAP Learning Hub, student edition, visit: https://learning.sap.com/free-student-edition

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MONDAY

The OG's back with a bang!

PG 3

DAY'S DIARY

Berlin's gate reopens

On this day, in 1989, Brandenburg Gate, Berlin's most iconic landmark, finally reopened one month after the fall of the Berlin Wall

HISTORY

King Frederick William II commissioned the large sandstone gate. It was built between 1788 and 1791 based on designs by Carl Gotthard Langhans the Elder

AFTER WORLD WAR II

The gate was part of the Berlin Wall dividing Germany between 1961 and 1989, built to prevent migration from the East, ruled by Soviet Russia, to the West

SYMBOL OF REUNIFICATION

In 1989, East Germany announced an ease in travel restrictions and the gate's reopening was seen as heralding the reunification of Germany

Robert Capron as Rowley Jefferson with Zachary Gordon, who played the titular character Greg Heffley in *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* films

'I didn't realise it was a multi-million dollar series'

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

Capron signs a copy of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* in Bengaluru

Diary of a Wimpy Kid actor Robert Capron looks back on his days filming the hit series, his struggles with eating disorder, and working with Tim Burton and Jack Black

AT the Bengaluru Comic Con, fans lined up to meet one of this year's guests **Robert Capron**, who, as an elementary school student, played the lovably naive Rowley Jefferson in the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* films. Now 27, the actor-turned-screenwriter, who is in the process of developing a film and TV show, took a moment to reflect on the path that the series and success at a young age, set him on. **Excerpts:**

● You took a tour of the city on your first day here – what did you like most?

It's my first time in Asia so I spent a good chunk of Friday exploring. I went to the Indian Music Experience museum and adored learning the music history of India and all the people involved in these different traditions. I also went to MTR; I loved the dosae and they just kept coming out with different stuff that got better and better, so I lost track!

● What are your favourite memories from *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* days?

As a kid, it felt like the best summer camp ever. It was only as an adult, I realised that it was a multi-million dollar film series and the pressure which was involved. I had so much fun with Zach (Zachary Gordon), who played Greg and Grayson Russell, who played Fregley, showed me all the *Lord of the Rings* movies for the first time. When you're a kid, you can kind of blur the line between the character and who you are more. Sometimes, we'd be filming in this school and we'd feel like we were actually just hanging out at school. I made lifelong friends there.

● Have you experienced any downsides to getting success at an early age?

I struggled with eating disorders and self image for a while. When you are overweight and put in front of an audience, it leads to a lot of judgement. The industry has a habit of trying to fit you in a mould. If I had really leaned into it, I probably would have booked more quicker but I didn't want to do that. Rowley is all about radical self acceptance and I had to teach myself that lesson.

● What helped you get through that time?

Support. I was caught throwing out a sandwich by my dad after months of barely eating. I had lost 70 pounds in two months. My dad put two and two together, took me to a nutritionist. I found that writing actually became a way to be able to talk about things and tell stories in a way that wasn't necessarily completely reliant on being a specific role. I could make the whole tapestry.

● You've also done voice acting, particularly on Tim Burton's *Frankenweenie*. What was it like to work with the legend?

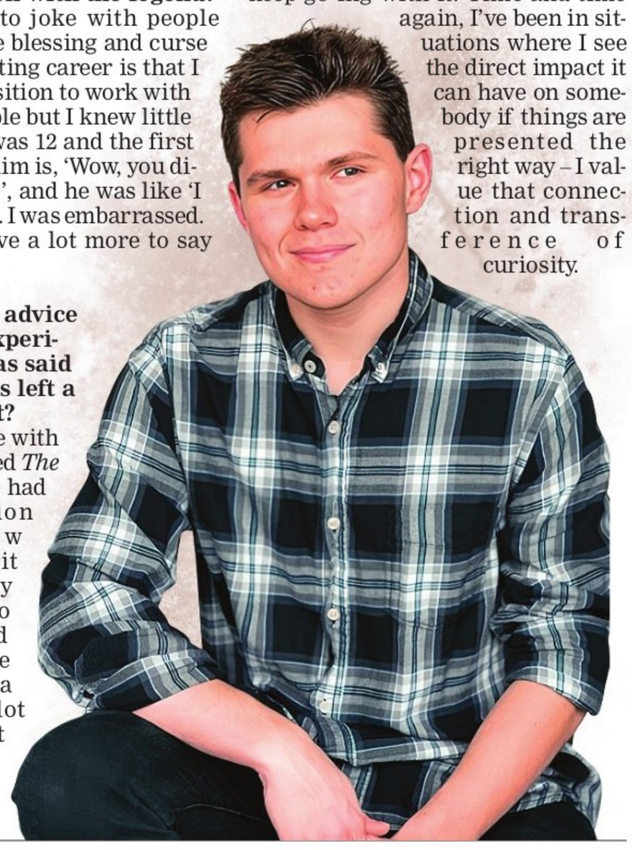
I like to joke with people that the blessing and curse of my acting career is that I was in a position to work with incredible people but I knew little about them. I was 12 and the first thing I said to him is, 'Wow, you directed *Batman*!', and he was like 'I know!' (laughs). I was embarrassed. I definitely have a lot more to say now.

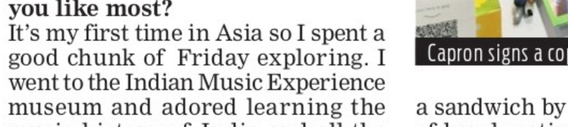
● Is there any advice that a more experienced actor has said to you that has left a lasting impact?

I was in a movie with Jack Black called *The Polka King*. We had a conversation about how commonplace it is, even at really higher levels, to get rejected, and the importance of failure as a teacher. In a lot of different ways, that was something that really stuck out to me. Especially as I've been really digging into writing.

● In recent years, you've started teaching filmmaking and VFX at a college by the charity Actors for Autism. Why is teaching important to you?

The whole reason my life, as it is now, exists, is because when I was eight, I took an after-school class taught by my local theatre in Rhode Island. The teachers thought I was really good and told my parents that I should keep going with it. Time and time again, I've been in situations where I see the direct impact it can have on somebody if things are presented the right way – I value that connection and transference of curiosity.





Goodbye...For Now

Nidhi Nahata, the founder of one of the city's popular vegan cafe-restaurants JustBe, recently took to Instagram to announce that the eatery would be shutting its doors. After a nine-year run that saw a heritage home turn into an intimate space introducing Bengalureans to innovative vegan food, its loyal customers took to the comments to mourn the loss. The closure, Nahata revealed, is due to plans for a multi-storey building to take the house's place. While no plans are set in stone, she may revive her longtime love in a new part of town, after a much needed 'pause'. After all, absence only makes the heart grow fonder.

PICS: KEVIN NASHON

Keep Calm & Comic Con

Fandom met flair at Bengaluru Comic Con held over the weekend at KTPO, Whitefield. The pop-culture fever came alive with palpable energy as thousands gathered, letting their love for comics shine with tailored costumes and capes, meticulously crafted wigs and a whole lot of attitude for their cosplay, making every detail a deliberate statement. The event lineup this year featured an array of international guests and Indian experts, including actor Robert Capron, French-Australian voice actress Chloé Hollings, who is the voice of Widowmaker from the popular game Overwatch, illustrator Peter Nguyen, known for his work with DC (*Gotham City Sirens*) and Marvel (*Death of Wolverine*) and Savio Mascarenhas, the man behind iconic *Tinkle* characters Little Shambu and Super Suppandi. The other highlights were musical performances and a fun cosplay contest. As the festival concluded on a high note, *CE* takes a look at a few cosplay moments that turned heads at the latest edition.

XPRESS FOCUS

Tarana Strikes a New Chord

Inside the Bengaluru band's pilot album and its fearless approach to Indian alternative music

Bengaluru-based Indian fusion rock band **Tarana** is steadily carving a distinct space in India's independent music scene. With the release of its seven-track pilot album, the band has made a confident artistic statement, blending rock with Indian classical traditions across Kannada, Tamil and Hindi compositions. Rich in mood, language and texture, the album reflects **Tarana**'s evolving sound and collective maturity.

The release was marked by a high-energy live show at Fandom, Koramangala, supported by Crossfade Productions and Backline India. Special appearances by Sunidhi Ganesh, Prajwal Bharadwaj, and Rohan Raveesh along with opening acts Project DND and Babitha Blasters, added to an evening audiences described as immersive and electric.

Tarana speaks about its creative process and the realities of building an audience in India's alternative music space.

With members rooted in Hindustani, Carnatic, Western rock and metal traditions, how do you blend these influences into a cohesive track?

■ **Tarana**: Our process begins with complete openness to ideas. In the early stages, no creative thought is restricted. Each member is encouraged to contribute freely, drawing from their own musical background. Classical music often becomes a strong foundation for our compositions, while the diversity of influences adds freshness and unpredictability to every track.

Usually, a song begins with a core idea, which then evolves organically as each member adds their perspective. Some compositions take time to mature, while others come together surprisingly quickly. Differences of opinion are part of the journey, but they are always in service of the music. In the end, we retain what feels emotionally and musically honest, ensuring the song works as a cohesive whole.

Alternative Indian music often struggles to reach the masses in a landscape dominated by film music. How do you approach this challenge?

■ We have consciously chosen not to typecast ourselves. During live shows, we adopt a balanced approach -- connecting with the audience through familiar elements first, and then introducing our original music. This helps build a bridge between the listener and our sound.

While it is undeniably challenging to take independent music to a wider audience, we believe in letting the music speak for itself. Some of our originals are more accessible, without compromising on identity or emotion. We also focus on marketing each song differently, allowing individual tracks to connect with different audiences. Finding this middle ground has helped us gradually expand our reach while staying true to who we are.

"Manovega" has seen organic traction on social media, especially through reels. Did you anticipate this response?

■ Not at all. "Manovega" was created as an honest musical expression, blending classical and jazz elements subtly. The organic response on social media reaffirmed our belief that when music is sincere, it finds its audience. Seeing listeners interpret the song visually through reels has been both humbling and encouraging.

Several tracks explore introspective and philosophical themes. How important is storytelling in your music?

■ Storytelling is central to our songwriting. Whether it is travel, inner conflict, discipline, or transformation, we want listeners to find their own reflections within the music. We do not aim to explain everything explicitly; instead, we leave space for interpretation, allowing the listener to complete the story in their own way.

"Saadhane" stands out for its strong classical core and Carnatic elements. What was the intent behind this composition?

■ "Saadhane" is deeply rooted in classical discipline and practice. We wanted to honour that tradition while presenting it in a contemporary fusion framework. The inclusion of mrudangam and the Carnatic kriti was intentional -- a quiet nod to purists, while still inviting new listeners into that soundscape.

How does your live performance experience differ from the studio process?

■ Live performances allow us to experience the music in real time, shaped by audience energy. While the studio demands precision and restraint, the stage gives us freedom to stretch, improvise and emotionally connect. The album release show at Fandom was special because it allowed us to present the songs exactly as we envisioned them; raw, immersive and communal.

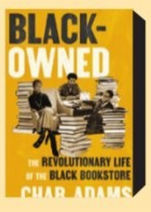
What does releasing a "pilot album" signify for Tarana at this stage?

■ We see this album as a statement of intent rather than a destination. It introduces our sound, our philosophy and our willingness to experiment. The word "pilot" reflects movement -- testing ideas, learning from audiences, and preparing for larger journeys ahead.

Finally, what can listeners expect next from Tarana?

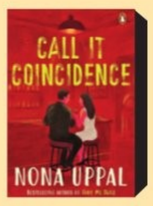
■ More exploration, more stories, and deeper musical conversations. We want to continue evolving without losing our core. The final track of the album, releasing in January, is just one glimpse of what lies ahead. This is only the beginning.

BOOK NOOK



Black-Owned: The Revolutionary Life of the Black Bookstore
by Char Adams

The book celebrates the history of Black bookstores and their role as centerpieces of resistance and liberation. From the author's in-depth research and reporting, Black-Owned is a story of activism, espionage, violence and perseverance.



Call It Coincidence
by Nona Uppal

Twenty-five-year-old Naina's world collides with Vatsal, lawyer-to-be, leading to a date. Then there comes one Diwali party where they drift apart only to meet three years later. Will Naina overcome the pain and Vatsal fight his fears this time around?

Never Logged Out: How the Internet Created India's Gen Z
by Ria Chopra

In eight essays, each posing questions about selfhood, love, memory, privacy, anonymity, knowledge, fame and ambition, the book interrogates how the internet makes and breaks this generation.

Beneath Magnolia Skies
by Mona Chettri, Prava Rai (eds.)

This anthology brings together homemakers, teachers, students, professionals, cultural practitioners, researchers and artists, each offering a unique lens into everyday life in the region.

READY-MADE FOR YOU!

Dancer Madhu Nataraj (right) showcases a curation of pre-loved & brand new apparel and accessories, sourced from some of the popular artists and design houses across the country, to a visitor at 'Aharya – Upcycle' exhibition at Natya Stem Dance Kampni Studio, Malleswaram | KEVIN NASHON

QUICKFIX

MASALA CORN

INGREDIENTS

- **Sweet corn (boiled):** 200 g
- **Rice flour:** 1½ tbsp
- **Corn flour:** 1½
- **Garlic powder:** ½ tsp
- **Onion powder:** 1 tsp
- **Chilli powder:** 1½ tsp
- **Butter:** 2 tbsp
- **Ginger (chopped):** ½
- **Garlic (chopped):** ½ tsp
- **Salt to taste**
- **Oil for frying**
- **Onion (chopped):** 1
- **Cumin powder:** ½ tsp
- **Garam masala:** ½ tsp
- **Tomato sauce:** 1 tsp
- **Coriander leaves**

METHOD

- Boil the sweet corn. Make sure there is absolutely no water in it. Pat the corn dry completely.
- In a bowl, add the dry sweet corn. To it, add rice flour, corn flour, garlic powder, onion powder, chilli powder, and salt. Mix well so that the corn is evenly coated.
- Heat oil in a pan and put the coated corn. Fry them on medium flame until crispy and golden. Remove and keep aside.
- In another pan, heat butter. Add chopped garlic and chopped ginger. Sauté until aromatic. Add chopped onion and cook until soft. Add cumin powder, garam masala, and chilli powder. Mix well. Add tomato sauce and cook for 1-2 minutes.
- Add the fried corn to the masala. Toss well so all the masala coats the corn beautifully.
- Add coriander leaves. Serve hot and enjoy!

Contributed by **Mohideen Kasali,** Chennai

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

When we pet our dog, our older dog makes mewling sounds. Should we pay heed and stop showing the younger one affection?

As a veterinarian, I can assure you this is a fairly common response in senior dogs. The mewling typically reflects feelings of insecurity, anxiety, or mild jealousy rather than pain or serious distress. There's no need to withhold affection from your younger dog. Instead, make

ASK AN XPERT

an effort to involve your older dog during these interactions by offering gentle attention, calm reassurance, or a small treat. Providing consistent, positive attention helps ease tension, reduces competition, and reinforces your older dog's sense of security and importance in the household.

FITBIT

WHY MANAGING PHOSPHORUS MATTERS FOR KIDNEY HEALTH

Phosphorus is an essential mineral that supports bone strength, energy production and cellular function. However, for people living with chronic kidney disease (CKD), managing phosphorus intake becomes a critical part of protecting long-term health. In healthy individuals, excess phosphorus is filtered out by the kidneys. But when kidney function declines, this process becomes less efficient, causing phosphorus to accumulate in the bloodstream. Over time, elevated phosphorus levels can weaken bones, harden blood vessels and increase the risk of cardiovascular complications all of which can further strain already vulnerable kidneys.

WHY HIGH PHOSPHORUS CAN BE HARMFUL

When phosphorus levels rise, the body pulls calcium from bones to maintain balance, increasing the risk of fractures and bone disorders. At the same time, excess phosphorus can contribute to calcium deposits in blood vessels, raising the risk of heart disease, a major concern for people with CKD.

Because phosphorus is closely tied to protein intake, many everyday foods can unintentionally push levels too high.

FOODS THAT MAY NEED TO BE LIMITED

Several commonly perceived "healthy" foods are naturally high in phosphorus and may need moderation for those with CKD, particularly in the early to moderate stages:

- Red meat and processed meats
- Cheese, paneer and processed dairy products
- Colas and dark sodas
- Nuts, seeds and nut-based spreads
- Whole grains such as brown rice
- Packaged foods containing phosphorus-based additives

SMARTER, KIDNEY-FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVES

A kidney-supportive diet doesn't have to feel restrictive. Simple substitutions can make a meaningful difference:

- Fresh fruits and most vegetables, which are naturally low in phosphorus
- Egg whites as a high-quality, low-phosphorus protein option
- Freshly prepared foods instead of packaged or processed foods
- White rice in place of whole grains
- Controlled portions of milk or low-phosphorus dairy alternatives

Managing phosphorus is a key part of slowing kidney disease progression and protecting bone and heart health. The goal isn't to eliminate protein, but to choose the right types and quantities. With mindful food choices and professional guidance, people with CKD can maintain better nutritional balance and support their overall well-being.

By Madhura P Behki, nutrition expert, cult — a fitness and wellness platform

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Stick On

Join a relaxed, hands-on workshop where you can shape and design your own clay fridge magnets. From playful fruits and flowers to quirky faces, the session is open to all skill levels and lets you take home a few handmade keepsakes by the end.

WHEN: December 22 onwards, 4pm
WHERE: Thirdspace – Art Cafe & Community, Hosur Main Road
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Catching Dreams

Unleash your creativity and enter into the world of handmade magic at this Dream Catcher workshop. Whether you are a beginner or a craft lover, this hands-on experience promises to leave you recharged and inspired.

WHEN: December 22, 4pm
WHERE: Uvid Art and Craft Supplies, Nagasandra
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Moonlit Mondays

Ease into the week with a relaxed Monday evening dining experience designed for couples. The menu features shareable plates and handcrafted cocktails, offering a slower, intimate way to spend the night.

WHEN: December 22, 7pm onwards
WHERE: Olive Beach, Ashok Nagar
CALL: 86554 79735

Sound Lab

Step into an evening of experimental sound as Japanese artists Ryosuke Kiyasu and Torturing Nurse bring their India tour to the city. Known for their intense, avant-garde performances, the night explores the raw edges of underground and noise music.

WHEN: December 22, 7pm
WHERE: Science Gallery, Bellary Road
DETAILS: district.in

Festive Brunch

Indulge in the Christmas spirit with a relaxed brunch spread featuring seasonal dishes, signature coffees and classic holiday desserts. Enjoy a slow, comforting morning that brings together familiar flavours and festive favourites.

WHEN: December 22, 10.30am
WHERE: Espressoulster Coffee, Koramangala
DETAILS: district.in

Fitness Freak

Take yourself to a group workout that brings together interval cardio and strength training in an energetic, instructor-led format. Designed for all fitness levels, the 55-minute session alternates short bursts of high-intensity movement with recovery periods, encouraging participants to stay motivated and move together.

WHEN: December 22, 8am onwards
WHERE: The BlackBx, Kasturba Road
DETAILS: blackbx.in

ARTCORNER

RITUAL OF EQUALITY

In 'The Wonder III', artist Abrar Ayoob draws a figure bending toward the water, turning a quiet backwater ritual into a burning act of equality

THE OG's BACK WITH A BANG

Here are first impressions from an outing with the much-talked-about Tata Sierra 2.0

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

SELLING a vehicle in the Indian mid-size SUV market is no easy game. Vrooming into the highly competitive segment crammed with every major carmaker, Tata Motors has upped its game by relaunching the cult classic Sierra.

To take on the bestsellers, Tata has packed almost every bell and whistle one can think of. And the Sierra's iconic status and magnetic appeal as a premium mid-size SUV translated into 70,000 'confirmed bookings' on the first day itself.

Legacy

Much before test drives began, Tata Motors shared extensive information on how the new Sierra roots itself in the rich history of the original Sierra that was launched in 1991.

Back then, the model became a headturner with its bold design. It was a two-row, three-door SUV – two front doors and a tailgate-mounted spare wheel. The second-row window featured immovable curved glass that extended into the roofline. The Sierra, however, was discontinued in 2003.

Now, with the new Sierra, Tata Motors has revived the nameplate, retaining some of its distinctive design traits. The company hopes to rekindle nostalgia among middle-aged buyers to drive interest in this new-generation SUV.

That, however, does not mean that Tata Motors has taken a traditional approach. The new Sierra is built on the all-new ARGOS platform for mid-size SUVs, capable of supporting multiple powertrain options, including EVs.

The Sierra comes with three engine options: a 1.5-litre naturally aspirated petrol, a 1.5-litre turbocharged direct-injection petrol, and a 1.5-litre turbo diesel. The petrol engines are completely new additions to Tata's portfolio, while the diesel is a significantly improved version of the Nexon unit, with recalibrated tuning for better performance.

Both exterior and interior designs are standout efforts. Here are my impressions.

The exterior

The exterior incorporates clever cues to echo the original Sierra. To recreate the feel of a curved glass wall, the roofline above the rear door is blacked out, with a thicker-than-usual B-pillar. The front end features a high stance, blacked-out grille, slim LED headlamps and an LED light bar.

Nineteen-inch alloys, black cladding and flush door handles enhance the silhouette. At the rear, the almost vertical tailgate gets an LED light bar to break visual monotony, aided by a roof spoiler. Unlike the old Sierra, the spare wheel is now mounted underneath the body rather than on the tailgate.

The interior

The cabin feels premium and well thought out. A wide screen stretches across the dashboard, housing three displays – a 12.3-inch passenger screen, a 12.3-inch infotainment screen and a 10.25-inch digital instrument cluster for the driver.

The off-white and black interior theme makes the cabin bright and classy. Controls are neatly arranged and the front seats are wide, well-cushioned, ventilated and even feature extendable thigh support – a first in the segment.

The rear seats comfortably accommodate three adults, with ample legroom and headroom. 'Boss' mode allows the front passenger seat to be pushed forward to free up additional rear legroom.

The spacious cabin is aided by the Sierra's dimensions – 4.3m long, 1.8m wide, 1.7m tall, and a 2.7m wheelbase, the longest in the segment. A panoramic sunroof further enhances the airy feel, while rear sunshades add comfort.

Boot space measures 450 litres up to the parcel shelf and expands to 622 litres up to the roof. The tailgate opens upwards and also supports gesture control.

Other highlights include connected car technology, wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, an auto-dimming interior rear-view mirror, dual-zone climate control, wireless phone charging and a 12-speaker JBL Black sound system with Dolby Atmos.

Over 30 curated apps for entertainment, gaming, OTT streaming and browsing are available on the passenger infotainment screen.

The drive

The new Hyperion turbo-petrol engine is impressively smooth, delivering strong performance with virtually no turbo lag. The torque converter automatic gearbox complements it perfectly. Paddle shifters are available, though manual intervention hardly feels necessary.

The suspension setup is commendable, while steering response and braking precision inspire confidence. Cornering ability and straight-line stability are strong suits of the Sierra. I also drove the top-spec diesel variant. While comparisons may not be entirely fair, the diesel performs adequately but allows noticeable engine and road noise to creep into the cabin. In terms of refinement, it trails the turbo-petrol version by a significant margin.

Safety

Safety features include six airbags as standard, ESC, traction control, a 360-degree camera, blind-spot detection, disc brakes on all wheels and hill-hold control. The L2+ ADAS suite, enhanced with Intelligent Speed Assist, offers 22 advanced driver-assistance features, including adaptive cruise control and lane-keeping assistance.

Pricing & verdict

The turbo-petrol engine is available only in higher variants. Prices for the naturally aspirated petrol range from ₹11.49 lakh to ₹17.99 lakh, while the turbo-petrol is priced between ₹17.99 lakh and ₹20.99 lakh. Diesel variants range between ₹12.99 lakh and ₹21.29 lakh.

While I couldn't drive the naturally aspirated petrol version, the turbo-petrol Sierra stands out for its refinement, performance, features and overall passenger comfort. And these are Sierra's biggest strengths. I can safely vouch that this one is a cool, robust successor to the iconic Sierra of the '90s.

MILESTONES

The Tata Sierra has entered the India Book of Records for achieving maximum fuel efficiency over a 12-hour run. In a certified test at NATRAX, Indore, the Sierra delivered an impressive 29.9 kmpl. The 1.5-litre turbo Sierra was driven continuously from 7am to 7pm on November 30, 2025, with only brief stops for driver swaps. The Sierra's design excellence has also earned global acclaim, winning the prestigious Red Dot Design Award 2025. The jury comprised 15 experts from 13 countries.

WHAT'S BUZZING?

MG HECTOR

JSW MG Motor India has launched the all-new MG Hector, featuring bold design, enhanced comfort, pioneering technology and a dynamic driving experience. Updates include new front and rear bumpers, an all-new grille, redesigned alloy wheels and two new colour options. Interiors feature a dual-tone Ice Grey theme for the 5-seater and Urban Tan for the six and seven-seater variants. Prices start at ₹11.99 lakh.

NISSAN GRAVITE

Nissan's upcoming seven-seater B-MPV will be called the Gravite and is set for launch in early 2026. It marks the first product under Nissan's refreshed India strategy and will be manufactured at Renault's Chennai facility.

KIA SELTOS

Kia India has premiered the all-new Seltos with refreshed styling, premium interiors and versatile powertrains. Highlights include the Kia Digital Tiger Face, automatic flush door handles, Ice Cube LED projection headlamps, a 75.18 cm display panel and an eight-speaker Bose audio system. Bookings are open at ₹25,000, Prices will be announced on January 2.

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

XPRESS HIGHWAY
SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

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PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SATISH BABU G alias GOVINDASETTY SATISHBABU S/O GOVINDASETTY, aged about 59 years, residing at No. 607, Srivari Nilayam, 12th B Main, MIG 3rd Stage, Yelahanka New Town, Yelahanka PO, Bengaluru, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560064, have changed my name from SATISH BABU G alias GOVINDASETTY SATISHBABU to SATISH BABU for all practical /documentation purposes, vide affidavit dated 19-12-2025 sworn before Advocate & Notary M. S. SATISH, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BHARATH B A**, S/o Sri Ashoka B, presently R/at No. 3391/223, Annapurna Nilaya, Ground Floor, 4th Main Road, 14th Cross Road, S.S. Layout 'B' Block, Chigateri Layout, Davanagere, Karnataka-577 005, permanent address: No. 118, Barikara Oni, Chigateri, Davanagere, Karnataka-583 127, today camp at Bengaluru, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **BHOJARAJ BASAVANAGOWDARA** to **BHARATH B A**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **BHARATH B A** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 19th Dec. 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **DEEPA .M** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **GOKUL GOWDA .K.M**, S/o Mr. Mariyappa, age 37 years, R/at Kaduboranahalli, Huliyurudurga Hobli, Kunigal Taluk, Ujjani, Tumkur District, Karnataka-572 123, today camp at Bengaluru do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MARIYAPPA .K.M** to **GOKUL GOWDA .K.M**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **GOKUL GOWDA .K.M** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 20th Dec. 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **T.C. THIMMARAJA** at Bangalore.

NAME DECLARATION
I, **Uttar Pandit, S/o Anama S Pandit,** Aged about 60 years, R/at No. 3, 1st Floor, 3rd Cross, Near Nagappa Street, Muneshwara Block, Palace Guttahalli, Bangalore- 560003,
I state that my name mentioned in the S.S.L.C. Marks card Karnataka State Bar Council and Property Khatha (Form No. 3) **(as "Uttar Anama Pandit")** and my name mentioned in the Aadhar Card and PAN Card **(as "Uttar Pandit")** both names are one & the same & belongs to me only.
vide affidavit dated 20/12/2025, Sworn to before Notary Neha Baddi Advocate at Bengaluru .

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SURESH BAHADUR, resident of Varsha Homes, 19th K Cross, Kaggadasapura, Bengaluru-560093, have changed my name to **SURESH KHATI** affidavit dated 20/12/2025 sworn before advocate and notary A.S. Narayana Reddy, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SRIKANTH SATHYANARAYANA, son of SATHYANARAYANA, residing at No.356/A, 8th Cross, 12th Main, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, 5th Block, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru – 560085, have changed my name from **SRIKANTH SATYANARAYAN (son of SATHYANARAYAN NATARAJ) to SRIKANTH SATHYANARAYANA (son of SATHYANARAYANA)** for all purposes as per affidavit dated 20-12-2025 sworn before Notary Mamatha N K – Reg No.10201, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KABADI ASWATHNARAYANA RAMANATHSA** (old name), resident of # 16, K V Lane, Next to Radha Krishna Lodge Cottonpet. Chickpet, Bangalore -560053 have changed my name to **KABADI ASHWATHNARAYANA RAMANATHSA** (new name) vide affidavit dated: 19/12/2025 Before Notary **A. Manjula** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **DHARA ADEMMA**, W/o Dara Uthanna, age 49 years, R/at NO. 13-42, Samadupalli, Thummarakunta, Annamayya, Nawabkota, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh-517 391, today at Bangalore, Aadhar No. 4369 4724 3803 do hereby declare that my correct name is **DHARA ADEMMA**, but in old Aadhar Card my name is correctly mentioned as **DHARA ADEMMA**, but by oversight I have changed my new Aadhar card from **DHARA ADEMMA** to **LAKSHMI**, vide affidavit dated 20-12-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **SUMITHRA** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **SNEHA @ SNEHA K**, D/o Sri Late Nataraj .K, age 30 years, r/at No. 63, 1st Floor, 2nd B Main Road, Venkata Gowda Layout, Kempapura, Bengaluru-560 024 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **SNEHA** and **SNEHA K** are one and the same and refers to me only, the initial "K" represents my family name, I have been consistently using the name **"SNEHA K"** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 19th day of December 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **L. PUTTARAJU** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MIT MUKESH PAREKH,** previously called as **MIT PAREKH,** S/o Mukesh Ranjandas Parekh, aged about 19 years, Residing at F184, Assetz Marq, Whitefield, Kannamangala, Bangalore-560 067. Hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **'MIT PAREKH'** to **'MIT MUKESH PAREKH'**, vide Affidavit dated 20.12.2025, Sworn before Advocate and Notary L. Gopalakrishna, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Ms. GABRIELA ASHOK RAJ,** Aged about 20 years, D/o. Ashok Raj Selvaraj @ Ashok Raj, residing at #101, Southern Enclave, 2nd Main, 8th Cross, Bannerghatta Road, NS Palya, BTM Layout, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka -560076, have changed my name from **GABRIELA ASHOK, GABRIELA A, AND GABRIELA to GABRIELA ASHOK RAJ,** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 20/12/2025, sworn before D. RAJANNA, Advocate and Notary, Bangalore-560077.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Geetha Suresh Kumar** W/o, Suresh Kumar residing at #B-103 Mantri Greens Apartments, # 1 Sampige Road, Next to Mantri Mall, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560003 have changed my name from Geetha Suresh Kumar to **Geetha Bafna** and shall henceforth be known as **Geetha Bafna** for all purposes vide affidavit dated 19.12.2025. Sworn before Notary Mr. Hegde Ganapati Venkataraman, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PERUMAL SWAMY** (Old name), aged about 45 years S/o **ALAGAR SAMY** Residing at No. 17, 3rd Main, Ramachandrapura, Sriramapuram, Bengaluru- 560021, have changed my name to **PERUMAL SAMY MASANAM ALAGAR** (new name) vide affidavit dated: 20/12/2025 Before Notary **MOHAMMAED HUSSAIN. K** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **JAYALAKSHMAMMA** (Old Name), aged 66 years, Wife of Late K.P.RAMAIAH SHETTY, Residing at NO.150, HENNUR MAIN ROAD, KACHARAKANAHALLI, BENGALURU NORTH, ST.THOMAS TOWN POST, BENGALURU-560084, KARNATAKA, declare that I have changed my name from **JAYALAKSHMAMMA** (Old Name) to **T.JAYALAKSHMI** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **T.JAYALAKSHMI** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit Reg. No. 99, Book-VI, Pages-22, dated : 19/12/2025 before Notary **S.I.BALAGURU**, at BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PRITEN MUKESHBHAI VASA,** S/o Mukeshbhai Mansukhbhai Vasa & Lattaben Mukeshbhai Vasa, age 31 years, r/at No. 302, 3rd Floor, East Owners Court 3 Lane, Kasavanahalli Main Road, Bengaluru-560 035 have changed my name to **PRITEN MUKESH VASA**, vide affidavit dated 20/12/2025 before Notary **S.I. BALAGURU,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SRI KESHAV MEWARA**, aged about 46 years, S/o. Chunni Lal, residing at No. 755, 13th 'A' Cross, Near BBMP Officer, Nagarabhavi, 1st Stage, Chandralayout, Bengaluru-560072, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SRI KESHAV CHAND MEWARA** to **SRI KESHAV MEWARA**, vide affidavit dated 20.12.2025, sworn to before A.C. Subbu Swamy, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mrs. ZAMRUD .K, D/O. KHASIM SAB, aged about 65 years, residing at No. 64, KHADAR STREET SRINIVSA NAGAR, D J HALLI, BANGALORE-560 045, have changed my name from ZAMRUDUNNISA to ZAMRUD .K** affidavit dated 20/12/2025 sworn before advocate and notary Chandrashekar .M, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SOWMYA SHREE,** R/o No. A-319, Garuda Park Square, Meenakshi Temple Road, Krishnarajapuram, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560 036 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SOWMYA SHREE G** to **SOWMYA SHREE,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SOWMYA SHREE** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 20th Dec. 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **SRINATHA .D.R** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Krishnadas Balasubramaniam,** S/o Mr. Balasubramaniam, age 38 years, R/at No. 219, 8th C Main, 1st Block, HRBR Layout, Bangalore-560 043 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **KRISHNADAS BALASUBRAMANIAM** and **KRISHNADAS B** are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 19th Dec. 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **UDAY KUMAR .K** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **GOLDASAHI JEYAROSE KAMALAN,** D/o David Jeyarose Kamalan & Leela Bai, aged 54 years, R/at KGR Land Mark Apartment, Flat-305, 3rd Floor, 3 & 4, Vignan Nagar Main Road, Bengaluru-560 075 have changed my name to **GOLDA SHAHI JEYAROSE KAMALAN,** vide affidavit dated 20/12/2025 before Notary **S.I. BALAGURU,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SANJAY RAO**, aged about 40 years, S/o. B V PRASANNA VENKATA RAMANA RAO, No. 146, 6th Cross, 5th A Main Road, Near Muthu Milk Diary Thyagarajanagar 3rd Block, Bengaluru-560028, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SANJAY BANGALORE PRASANNA** to **SANJAY RAO**, vide affidavit dated 19.12.2025, sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, J KENNEDY SHANTHAKUMAR (New Name), Aged about 55 years, S/o. James, residing at No.1747, 18th C Main, Near 9th Block Bus Stop, Jayanagar 4th Block, Bangalore South, Bangalore –560041, Karnataka, India, that I have changed my name from KENNEDY SHANTHAKUMAR, KENNEDY SHANTHAKUMAR P (Old Name) to J KENNEDY SHANTHAKUMAR (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as J KENNEDY SHANTHAKUMAR (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 08/12/2025, before Notary MOHAMMED HUSSAIN K, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Smt. RADHA KANTH** W/o Lakshmi Kanth K, aged about 51 years, residing at No. 004, Baldota Spring Wood Apartment, Telecom Layout, Virupakshapuram, Near Kodigehalli Railway Gate, Bangalore North, Bangalore – 560097, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RADHA KANTH RAMPAPPA** to **RADHA KANTH.** Henceforth I shall be known and called as **RADHA KANTH** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 20/12/2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **LEELA** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **NISHA M,** W/o Mr. Krishnadas Balasubramaniam, age 32 years, R/at No. 219, 8th C Main, 1st Block, HRBR Layout, Bangalore-560 043 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **NISHA MURALI** and **NISHA M** are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 19th December 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **UDAY KUMAR .K** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MEWADA RUCHI MUKUNDKUMAR,** D/o Mukundkumar Mewada, aged 30 years, R/o No. B-113, ARS Signature Homes, Phase 2, Sompura Gate, Bangalore-562 125 do hereby declare that all the names i.e. **RUCHI MUKUNDKUMAR MEWADA, RUCHI MEWADA, MEWADA RUCHI, MEWADA RUCHI MUKUNDKUMAR** and **RUCHI** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **MEWADA RUCHI MUKUNDKUMAR** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 20-12-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **ROOPA G BHANDARE** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SMT. PUSHPA.P**
W/o Sri.K.Prabhakar, aged about 46 years, residing at: No.27, 4th Main Munireddy Layout, Opp Trust in Hospital, Horamavu, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name from **PUSHPA to PUSHPA.P** affidavit dated 17/12/2025 sworn before advocate and notary Manjunath .T, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, VEERASWAMY REDDY SUBRAMANYA, Son of Late Veeraswamy Reddy, resident of No.3, 2nd Cross, 2nd Stage, Near SBM, R K Layout, Padmanabhanagar, Bengaluru-560070, Karnataka, India, have changed my name from **VEERASWAMY REDDY SUBRAMANYA to V SUBRAMANYAM REDDY,** vide affidavit dated 19-12-2025 sworn before notary L Puttaraju, Bengaluru.

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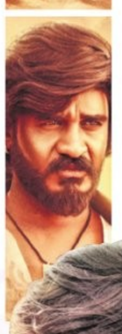
In an exclusive chat with CE, cinematographer-turned-director Sudhakar S Raj opened up about why he chose to step behind the camera as a filmmaker, while also taking up the DOP responsibilities

DOP SUDHAKAR S RAJ TO MAKE DIRECTORIAL DEBUT WITH *JODETTU*

A SHARADHAA

AFTER a brief shuffle of directorial hands, *Jodettu* has quietly found its footing, emerging with renewed clarity and ambition. Headlined by Chikkanna, this rural drama also marks the directorial debut of seasoned cinematographer Sudhakar S Raj, who now steps behind the megaphone after more than a decade of capturing stories through the lens. With the film having recently gone on floors, the team is preparing for full-fledged shooting from January 5.

Set against the landscapes of a village backdrop, *Jodettu* is being mounted with meticulous care. The makers are constructing an entire village set in Chikkamagaluru, a canvas that is expected to be central to the film's narrative. "The village itself becomes a character," says Sudhakar. "Every corner, every pathway contributes to the story. We wanted it to feel lived-in and real, not just a backdrop." For Sudhakar, the shift from cinematography to direction feels natural rather than sudden. Having served as the eyes behind more than ten films, he says, "As cinematographers, we travel with different directors and observe how they handle a scene. A director doesn't always explain every frame; he shares a vision and lets you imagine. That trust is why we are called directors of photography. With *Jodettu*, I want to bring together all those experiences and tell a story that resonates emotionally."



The journey to this point was far from smooth. Two directors had come and gone before Sudhakar was finalised, leaving the project searching for stability. "Initially, I was on board only as the cinematographer. I had collaborated with Chikkanna on *Adhyaksha*. Since then, he kept nudging me to direct, but I was busy behind the camera." Though earlier opportunities, including the chance to helm films like Rambo 2, slipped past him due to cinematography commitments, Sudhakar was drawn to *Jodettu* for its heartfelt story exploring human-animal relationships. "This story felt different," he says. "It's rooted in a village, and it speaks about bonds that transcend words. That's why I said yes, despite other projects lined up with Tharun Kishore Sudhir and Darshan."

His journey toward direction traces back to 1997, when he worked as a still photographer on Nagathihalli Chandrashekar's *Hoomale*. Following advice to first hone his craft in cinematography, Sudhakar spent decades learning the nuances of storytelling as cinematographer. Now, he assumes dual responsibilities as both director and cinematographer, driven by his love for cinema. Produced by Somashekar (Kattigenahalli) under the Akash Enterprises banner, *Jodettu* is being mounted on a grand scale with pan-Indian aspirations. Telugu actor Sunil plays a pivotal role alongside Chikkanna, with further casting announcements expected soon. "This is my biggest-budget film so far," says Chikkanna. "The story begins and ends in a village, set in the 1980s. It blends family sentiment, comedy, and action. Soon, we will reveal who the real '*Jodettu*' is."

Composer V Harikrishna has made five songs for the film, while dialogues are penned by Maasti, Rajasekhar, and Raghu Niduvalli. Mohan B Kere serves as the art director, ensuring the period village setting feels immersive. If all goes according to plan, audiences can expect to witness *Jodettu* in theatres in 2026.

Mammootty to reunite with Khalid Rahman

CE FEATURES

EARLIER, we reported that Mammootty is joining hands with producer Shareef Muhammed's Cubes Entertainments banner, who recently backed Unni Mukundan's *Marco*. The latest from the project is that director Khalid Rahman of Thallumaala and Alappuzha Gymkhana-fame has joined the team. Khalid is set to direct the film from a screenplay by Niyog (Tiki Taka) as well as the screenwriting duo Suhas and Sharaf U Dheen (Varathan). The film reunites the legendary actor with Khalid Rahman after 2019's Unda and with Suhas and Sharaf U Dheen after 2022's *Puzhu*.

The makers made the announcement on Sunday on social media with a caption that reads, "From Bloodbath to Beastland... Now, it's time for the big bang." The banner is also backing the still-in-production Kattalan, starring Antony Varghese. While they are yet to disclose details about the rest of the cast and crew, the makers revealed that it is "a big-budget mass entertainer" featuring big stars from both Malayalam cinema and beyond and renowned technicians.

Kiara Advani's latest avatar in Yash's *Toxic* gives a first hint of the emotional depths the film aims to explore

Kiara Advani's look from Yash's *Toxic* is here

CE FEATURES

THE makers of Rocking Star Yash's *Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups*, directed by Geetu Mohandas, have now unveiled the first look of Kiara Advani. According to the announcement, the actor plays a character named Nadia in the upcoming film. Director Geetu Mohandas' vision positions Nadia as a character layered with grief, strength, and quiet rebellion. Talking about Kiara's dedication, the director wrote on social media, "Some performances don't just belong to a film, they redefine an artist. What Kiara created on screen in this film is nothing short of transformative. From our very first conversation, she placed an unwavering trust in a character that demanded everything from her—be it emotionally, mentally, and artistically. She didn't just play the role, she lived it. As a director, I am deeply proud of her and for the performance she has delivered, and for the faith and heart she has brought into our shared journey."

Aiming for a global release, the upcoming film is simultaneously shot in both English and Kannada. *Toxic* will also be dubbed in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam. The technical team of *Toxic* consists of National Award-winning cinematographer Rajeev Ravi, composer Ravi Basrur, editor Ujwal Kulkarni, and production designer TP Abid. The action, meanwhile, is handled by Hollywood's JJ Perry (John Wick) and National Award-winning duo Anbariv.

Produced by Venkat K Narayana and Yash under KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations, *Toxic* is set for a grand theatrical release on 19 March, coinciding with Eid, Ugadi, and Gudi Padwa.

Natasha Lyonne to write and direct *Bambo*

CE FEATURES

NATASHA Lyonne is all set to direct *Bambo*, a sports drama, in her sophomore directorial venture. Lyonne will also be writing the film which will begin filming in the second half of 2026.

While no other casting details about the film have been revealed, Lyonne will also be producing *Bambo* along with Chernobyl creator Craig Mazin, Max Ferguson, and Sarah Sarandos. Word Games and Animal Pictures are the banners backing the film.

The story of *Bambo* will be centred on a boxing promoter from Brooklyn, New York, who tries to make it big in the world of promoting, like Don King, the promoter of Muhammad Ali matches, like 'Rumble in the Jungle' and 'Thrilla and Manila'. In his tumultuous journey of victories and defeats, he has to take care of his daughter.

The biggest lesson I took away from Sudeep was his sense of timing: Ashwin Hassan

CE FEATURES

EVEN in Kannada cinema, where supporting actors often fade into the shadows of stars, Ashwin Hasan has carved out a distinct identity. Known for his intense police roles and dependable screen presence, he now marks a personal milestone with his 100th film, *Mark*, starring Sudeep and releasing on December 25. Coming from modest beginnings, the moment feels like a quiet celebration of patience, grit, and consistency, he says.

An engineer by qualification, he once balanced a corporate job while nurturing a growing passion for acting. "My journey truly took shape at the Kalagangotri theatre group under the guidance of my mentor, BV Rajaram, who helped sharpen the craft that defines me today. I made my film debut in 2007 with *Operation Ankush*, followed by *Mandakini*, *Vishnu Sena*, and *Cool*. These films slowly helped me build my space as a supporting actor," he says.

A still from the film

Television also played a major role in shaping him as a performer. "Serials like *Pallavi Anupallavi*, *Chitte Hejje*, and *Lavalavike* gave me the chance to explore different characters and strengthen my screen instincts. In 2014, I took a decisive step by quitting my corporate job to focus entirely on cinema. It was a risk, and it took time, but it eventually paid off," says Ashwin.

His return to films, he says, gained momentum with Darshan's *Jaggudada*, which opened doors to work with actors he admires. "I went on to work with Puneeth Rajkumar in *Raajakumara*, Sudeep in *Hebbuli*, Rakshit Shetty in *Avane Srimannarayana*, which was my 44th film, besides projects with Shivarajkumar and Sriimurali. Roles in *Bagheera* and *Thugs of Ramghad* were special. Beyond Kannada cinema, I have acted in Telugu films like *Salaar* and Tamil projects such as *Sannidhanam Post Office*, apart from lending my voice for Kannada dubs," he says.

He adds, "The lockdown, like for many others, brought my work to a complete halt. But opportunities slowly returned, and between 2021 and 2025, my journey picked up again."

Talking about *Mark*, he says the film is especially close to his heart as it marks his 100th film and finally gave him the chance to share screen space with Sudeep. "Working on *Mark* felt fast and energetic, almost like a T20 match. Directed by Vijay Karthikeya, the film has many layers and works as an edge-of-the-seat thriller. "I mostly share screen space with Ragu Ramanakoppa and Deepshikha, and overall, it was a learning experience. Watching Sudeep closely, the biggest lesson I took away was his sense of timing," he says.

LARS EIDINGER TO PLAY BRAINIAC IN *SUPERMAN* SEQUEL

CE FEATURES

GERMAN actor Lars Eidinger is stepping into the DC Universe as Brainiac, the iconic supervillain set to challenge Superman in James Gunn's upcoming film, *Man of Tomorrow*. Gunn announced the casting through his social media handle on Saturday, writing, "In our worldwide search for Brainiac in '*Man of Tomorrow*', Lars Eidinger rose to the top. Welcome to the DCU, Lars."

This marks the first time Brainiac, introduced in the comics in 1958, will appear in a major DC feature film. Traditionally portrayed as a hyper-intelligent alien android obsessed with cataloguing cosmic knowledge, the character is infamous for miniaturising entire worlds and preserving them in glass containers, or destroying them if they fail to meet his standards. Returning to the franchise are David Corenswet as Clark Kent/Superman, Rachel Brosnahan as Lois Lane, and Nicholas Hoult as Lex Luthor. *Man of Tomorrow* is currently headed for a theatrical release on July 9, 2027.